



FACTSHEET

Cat Bite Abscess

Definition

Usually occur superficially in the skin, often rupture spontaneously, releasing pus through a hole in the overlying skin.

Cat bite abscesses occur after a fight between cats. This is common in an over populated cat household/neighbourhood and culprits are usually un-neutered males defending their territory as competing for females.

To help resolve this the males require neutering & to try and reduce the cat population by rehoming.

Cats mouths are full of bacteria and if unvaccinated can spread diseases. CBA can cause localised tissue damage and require veterinary treatment. The symptoms are usually high temperature, anorexia, localised inflammation, swelling, immobility of affected area and evidence of puncture wounds from the canine teeth.

Depending on the severity of the bite/s is dependent on whether invasive treatment is required. This entails a general anaesthetic, debriding of the dead tissue, flushing out the pus and allowed to heal with the wound open and antibiotic treatment. If the wound is closed post surgery this can help contain any remaining bacteria cells and they can proliferate causing another abscess to form. Post Op care involves the owner bathing the area daily with warm salt water which cleanses & keeps the wound open.

Diseases that can be spread by Cat bites are Feline Immunodeficiency virus (Feline Aids) and Feline Leukaemia Virus both which are debilitating to the Cats health and usually cause fatality. These diseases are also difficult and expensive to treat. Feline upper respiratory disease is also transmitted via saliva and requires symptomatic treatment with antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections.

Westover Veterinary Centre (Small animals)

40 Yarmouth Road, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9AT

Tel: 01692 403202 Fax: 01692 500944

Email: adminsa@westovervets.co.uk Web: www.westovervets.co.uk