

Jird groups:	Jird number:	Day -60	Day -1	Day 1	Day 8	Day 15	Day 18	Day 19	Day 22	Day 29	Day 37	Day 50	Day 64	Day 78	Day 98	Day 108	Day 152	Day 169	Day 185	
Naturally infected jirds	MP7	200	200		200	First application of fleas on jirds	200		500	40	50	1000	700	400	80	20	0	0	0	
	MP8	1000	1000		1000		100		300	700	60	600	20	ND	100	70	200	0	0	
Inoculated jirds	MB9	0	0	Inoculation	500		500		1000	ND	300	300	300	ND	200	1000	60	0	0	
	MB10	0	0		1000		1000		1000	1000	ND	100	600	1000	600	400	30	0	0	
	MB11	0	0		1000		500		300	200	ND	100	30	900	700	100	ND	600	0	
	MB12	0	0		400		400		80	100	1000	700	700	1000	ND	300	500	0	0	
	MB13	0	0		200		200		50	ND	40	ND	800	400	1000	600	0	0	0	
	MB14	0	0		80		800		900	40	70	90	400	100	200	700	80	0	0	
Flea infected jirds	MN1	0	0		0		Second application of fleas on jirds	0		50	0	600	500	500	70	20	ND	100	0	0
	MN2	0	0		0			0		0	100	300	900	ND	800	500	ND	1000	800	100
	MN3	0	0		0			0		300	400	0	400	500	400	600	600	400	0	0
	MN4	0	0		0			0		1000	0	900	80	900	100	400	900	0	0	0
	MN5	0	0		0			0		0	0	200	ND	100	600	50	70	80	0	0
	MN6	0	0		0			0		0	800	1000	500	500	ND	ND	1000	300	0	0
	MN15					0			0	60	900	200	20	500	600	40	200	0	0	
Negative control jirds	MN16								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	MN17								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	MN18								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	MN19								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	MN20								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

**Supplementary table S1:** Results of *Bartonella* blood cultures (in colony forming units per 0.2ml blood), from all jirds during the experiment. MP7-8 represent naturally infected *Bartonella* jirds; MB9-14 represent experimentally infected jirds; MN1-6 represent *Bartonella* negative jirds infested by *Bartonella* positive fleas; MN15-20 represent *Bartonella* negative jirds; Inoculation of jirds occurred on day 1; First application of fleas on jirds occurred on day 15; Second application of fleas on jirds occurred on day 19; ND Not done.