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# etymologia

## *Coxiella* [kok'' se-el' ə] *burnetii*

Etiologic agent of Q fever, named after American bacteriologist Herald Rea Cox and Australian physician Frank MacFarlane Burnet, who both independently isolated the bacterium in the 1930s. *C. burnetii* belongs in the family *Coxiellaceae*, which consists of gram-negative rods without flagella or a capsule. The bacteria occur in ticks and various vertebrates, including humans.

**Source:** Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary, 31st edition. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2007; American Veterinary Medical Association. Q fever background. Available from [http://www.avma.org/public\\_health/biosecurity/qfever\\_bgnd.asp](http://www.avma.org/public_health/biosecurity/qfever_bgnd.asp)

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