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## etymologia

### *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* [kap"no-si-tof'ə-gə kan"ə-mor'səs]

Ronnie Henry

From the Greek *kapnos* (“smoke”) for its dependence on carbon dioxide, which is a large component of smoke, *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* (Latin *canis*, “dog,” and *morsus*, “bite”) are gram-negative, facultatively anaerobic, rod-shaped bacteria that are part of the normal oral microbiota of dogs and cats. The genus was proposed to distinguish these bacteria from *Cytophaga* spp. (Greek *kytos*, “cell,” and *phagein*, “eat”), which also exhibit gliding motility. *C. canimorsus* was previously known as CDC group DF-2 (dysgonic fermenter type 2) and was first isolated from a man who had experienced multiple dog bites and developed septicemia and meningitis. *C. canimorsus* remains a major cause of septicemia in persons, particularly those who are asplenic or immunocompromised, who are bitten by dogs or cats.



Paul de Vos, *Cats Fighting in a Larder* 1630–1640. Oil on canvas. Museo Nacional del Prado. <https://www.museodelprado.es/coleccion/galeria-online/galeria-online/obra/pelea-de-gatos-en-una-despensa/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39117357>

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