**S1 Table. Flea infection summary**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sample/  Experiment | Concentration of KIM6+ *Y. pestis* in the Infectious Blood Meal (CFU/ml) | Median CFU/Flea  (T=0) | Range | n |
| Infected #1 | 6.5 x 108 | 4.3 x 104 | 1.3 x 104 – 9 x 104 | 18 |
| Infected #2 | 2.9 x 108 | 1.1 x 104 | 1.1 x 103 –2.3 x 104 | 20 |
| Infected #3 | 4.6 x 108 | 1.6 x 105 | 1.1 x 105 –2.8 x 105 | 20 |
| Infected #4 | 3.3 x 108 | 5.0 x 104 | 4.0 x 102 –7.3 x 104 | 20 |
| Infected #5 | 5.7 x 108 | 7.4 x 104 | 1.1 x 103 –1.5 x 105 | 20 |
| Infected #6 | 3.7 x 108 | 4.0 x 104 | 1.6 x 103 – 1.1 x 105 | 20 |
| Combined | 4.5 x 108 | 5.2 x 104 | 4.0 x 102 –2.8 x 105 | 118 |