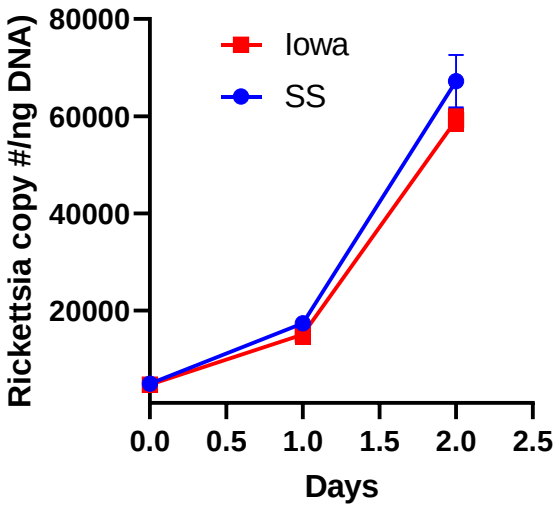
Supplementary Data:

Figure 1. Growth of Iowa and Sheila Smith (SS) strain of *R. rickettsii* in endothelial cells



Confluent endothelial cells were infected with *R. rickettsii* (SS and Iowa) with similar number of bacteria, after 24 and 48h, DNA was isolated and rickettsiae copy number was measured using gltA primer pair.

Supplemental Table:

Supplementary Table: List of primers used in this study

Gene	Orientation	Primer sequence (5'-3')
gltA	Forward	TCACTGCTTCATTAGCCCCG
	Reverse	AGTTCGGATTGCTGGCTCAT
ompA	Forward	CCTGCCGATAATTATACAGGTTTA
	Reverse	GTTCCGTTAATGGCAGCAT
18S	Forward	GTAACCCGTTGAACCCCATT
	Reverse	CGCTACTACCGATTGGATGG
GAPDH	Forward	CTGGTAAAGTGGATATTGTTGCCAT
	Reverse	TGGAATCATATTGGAACATGTAAACC
IL-6	Forward	CGCTGACGGAGTACAAGTG
	Reverse	GAAGGCAGCAGGCAACAC
IL-8	Forward	AGACAGCAGAGCACACAAGC
	Reverse	AGGAAGGCTGCCAAGAGAG
IL-1α	Forward	TGGTAGTAGCAACCAACGGGA
	Reverse	ACTTTGATTGAGGGCGTCATTC