



## ***K9 Health Information***

### **KENNEL COUGH**

#### **What Is Kennel Cough?**

Kennel cough, also known as "canine cough" or "tracheobronchitis", is a commonly occurring and highly infectious disease that affects dogs. It is caused by viruses such as canine adenovirus, parainfluenza virus, and canine respiratory coronavirus or by bacteria such as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. The disease can last initially for 5-10 days, however could re-break if the dog is put into a stressful situation which puts stress on the dog's immune system.

#### **How do dogs contract Kennel Cough?**

Dogs can contract the disease anywhere that dogs congregate such as kennels, daycares, parks, pet stores, groomers, and street corners as well as from dog-to-dog contact. Not unlike the common cold in people, transmission occurs through the air when an infected dog sneezes or coughs, or from contaminated surfaces such as the water bowls, the ground or grass, toys, and sidewalks.

Kennel Cough is highly contagious and can infect another dog 2-3 days BEFORE a dog with Kennel Cough shows any symptoms and 2-3 days AFTER the symptoms disappear. (5-10 days) This can make it difficult for our staff to detect. In some cases a seemingly healthy dog can spread the disease to others.

Older dogs and dogs with a suppressed immune system can be more susceptible to the disease.

#### **How do I recognize Kennel Cough?**

The symptoms of kennel cough appear 2-5 days after exposure and the disease starts with an inflammation of the upper respiratory tract, including the nose, windpipe and bronchi. Symptoms can include a dry hacking/coughing, sneezing, snorting or gagging in response to light pressing of the trachea or after excitement or exercise. (as if there is something caught in the throat). There may be a fever, sneezing, loss of appetite and even pneumonia in severe cases left un-treated.

(Over)

## **What Can I do to prevent Kennel Cough?**

The Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccine is always given as a separate vaccine. It is important to tell your veterinarian your dog needs this vaccine, as it may not be a part of the yearly check-up. Also, even though it is given annually, its protection only lasts approximately six months. In dogs that are at low risk, annual vaccination is usually sufficient. However, dogs that often come in contact with other dogs are walked in parks and are frequently attending daycare, groomed or boarded, should all receive Bordetella vaccines every six months.

**IF YOU'RE DOG EXHIBITS ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THEM TO THE DAYCARE AND SCHEDULE A VET APPOINTMENT IMMEDIATELY. YOU WILL WANT TO LET THE VET KNOW THAT YOU SUSPECT KENNEL COUGH SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO FOLLOW DISEASE PREVENTION PROTOCOLS. ONCE DIAGNOSED, PLEASE INFORM THE DAYCARE SO WE CAN RECORD THE CASE, AND MONITOR OTHERS WITHIN THEIR PLAY GROUP.**

## **What does "Sadie's" do to prevent Kennel Cough?**

Bordetella vaccine is mandatory for all dogs attending "Sadie's" for daycare, grooming or classes. All new clients are informed to receive the vaccine every six months instead of every year.

Dogs that are exhibiting any symptoms when they arrive are not admitted and asked to be checked by a veterinarian prior to returning.

If a dog exhibits any symptoms throughout the course of the day, they are immediately isolated and the owner is informed.

We use a disinfectant that is used by veterinary clinics and has been proven to kill both the bacteria and the viruses of all of the diseases your dog is routinely vaccinated for.

All of our water bowls are stainless steel and are cleaned and disinfected daily.

All surfaces that the dogs come in contact with through the course of the day, both inside and outside are disinfected daily. This includes kennels and hammock beds.

## **Treatment**

Treatment may include antibiotics if there is a bacterial infection and cough suppressants may be helpful if the cough is non-productive (i.e. nothing is coughed up). Most dogs recover uneventfully.

## **When can my dog come back to daycare?**

In most cases, at least 15 days once they have been diagnosed. This should provide enough recovery time to insure they do not infect others within the daycare and allow the disease prevention measures at the daycare to be more effective.