

KENNEL COUGH NOTICE:

We want to encourage everyone who socializes their dog to be aware of the symptoms of Kennel Cough. Whether your dog plays at Puppy Love, at the dog park, visits the groomer, or any other facility, it's important to understand Kennel Cough and how to help prevent the spreading this doggy cold to your dog's canine friends!



FACTS ABOUT KENNEL COUGH:

Kennel Cough is basically a Doggy Cold that is a common ailment in dogs. It is very similar to the Common Cold experienced in humans. People tend to associate it with dogs that either are being, or recently have been boarded. But your dog need not be boarded to catch Kennel Cough. Kennel Cough is caused by an airborne virus, which is highly contagious. Any time your dog is in the vicinity of an infected dog, the potential exists for infection. The incubation period is about 8-10 days, meaning your dog will not display symptoms of illness for about 8-10 days following exposure to the virus. This factor, in part, allows for unintentional exposure. Having a strong immune system is best way to avoid coming down with symptoms if/when your dog is exposed to the virus. This is why not every dog in the kennel (or house) will get it if there is an outbreak.

Although there is a vaccine (Bordatella) for Kennel Cough, it is sometimes not effective in preventing infection. The most likely explanation for this is that there are many strains and mutations of the virus out there. Therefore, it is hit or miss whether the vaccine used on your dog will be the right one for the strain with which your dog comes into contact. This is similar to the "flu shot" for people. Each year a vaccine is developed based on which strain(s) are suspected to be most prevalent. Be aware that your dog can still catch Kennel Cough even if s/he has had a vaccination to prevent it.

SYMPTOMS OF KENNEL COUGH:

- The most common symptoms are a dry, hacking cough followed by retching, and coughing up a white foamy discharge. The cough is brought on by an inflammation of the trachea (windpipe) and bronchi (the air passages to the lungs).
- Some dogs also develop conjunctivitis, rhinitis (inflamed nasal mucous membrane), and a nasal discharge.
- In mild cases, dogs will be alert and continue to eat normally. In more severe cases, a dog can become feverish, depressed, lethargic, expel a thick yellow or green nasal discharge, or could possibly even develop pneumonia.

HOW PUPPY LOVE HELPS TO COMBAT KENNEL COUGH:

- We use mobile air filtration systems that circulate and clean the air. They are equipped with UV lights that kill bacteria, viruses, mold, and other harmful pollutants in the air.
- Dehumidifiers are used to remove moisture from the air. High humidity promotes the reproduction of infectious agents.
- Floors are swept and mopped several times daily with disinfectant.
- Food and water bowls are cleaned with disinfectant daily.
- Bedding is cleaned after use.
- Any animal exhibiting any symptoms are immediately separated from the play group and sent home.
- We require the Bordatella vaccine.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- If you notice any of the symptoms in your pooch, please visit your vet. While Kennel Cough often takes the course of a cold as it would in a human, in rare cases it can develop into something more serious.
- Also, please notify Puppy Love immediately if your pet exhibits any symptoms after visiting Puppy Love or upon first entering Puppy Love.
- Do not allow your dog to be around other dogs if symptoms are present or if your vet informs you s/he is contagious.

Remember, Kennel Cough may sound scary, or even look scary, but in most cases it runs its course naturally just like the Common Cold in a human. Unfortunately, just like human children in daycares and schools, our fur babies get colds.