



Crossroads Animal Hospital



Pet Talk

Spring 2018

Leave Your Fur-Babies with Peace of Mind Check Out Our Remodeled Boarding Facility!



Looking for a safe, caring place for daycare or overnight stays for your pet? Welcome to our clean, bright, newly remodeled boarding facility! We accommodate all sizes of dogs and cats, and we offer convenient hours for drop-off or pick-up Monday through Saturday. (Sorry, no Sunday pickups).

Each powder-coated, large dog run features a deck flooring insert to keep your pet up off the concrete, and there is a heavy-duty insert between cages to keep everyone safe. Then, we add cozy bedding to make your dog's stay comfortable. Our facility includes a large outside yard for walking and running. And when it's just too nice to stay inside, we have several outdoor runs to play in.

When you leave your pet in our care, our compassionate staff will make sure they get regular attention and exercise, and that your cat's or dog's stay is as comfortable as possible. Give us a call today to make a boarding appointment, or come by to visit the new facility!



A Fluffy Ball of Joy! Bringing Your New Kitten Home

Everyone loves a cute, cuddly kitten! Let's prepare to bring your precious little fur-ball home.

If possible, use the same food and litter as in their previous home for the first few weeks. We can recommend higher quality food after that. Find a secluded area for the litter box, and a separate undisturbed area for food and water. Keep fresh water available (no milk!), and feed three or four times a day until your kitten is six months old. Now, it's time to make your home safe:

- Make family members and guests mindful of the floor. One of the most common injuries to kittens is being stepped on.
- Keep kittens away from high places where they can fall — another common injury.
- Close bathroom and kitchen cabinets, toilet lids, and washer and dryer doors.
- Provide plenty of toys but avoid those with small parts.
- Always supervise kittens with children and with other pets.



Schedule a visit with us right away so we can make sure your kitten is healthy, give them any needed vaccines, and check for parasites. Now, all you need to do is enjoy!



Is It Love? The Canine-Human Bond

Human history with dogs began at least 10,000 years ago. The relationship benefitted both species. Early humans found that dogs served as alarm systems, helped track and catch prey, could keep them warm, and could guard and entertain human children. The tradeoff is that people provide food and shelter for their canine companions. However, scientists have now found that the bond goes much deeper than these obvious mutual benefits.

We develop a deep emotional bond with our babies and other humans due to the mutual release of a hormone called oxytocin, an occurrence we describe as love. Studies now show that dogs and their owners experience the same exchange, especially when gazing into each other's eyes. Although many mammals produce oxytocin and bond with their own, humans and canines are the only mammals known to have this exchange with another species! So, the next time you wonder if you're unnaturally attached to your dog, you can confidently say no. It's just a miraculous process that bonds two species who seem to be made for each other!

A Silent Sickness Chronic Kidney Disease in Cats

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a common, potentially fatal feline disease. Unfortunately, cats can lose as much as 75% of kidney function before symptoms of CKD appear. Symptoms include vomiting a foamy fluid, excessive or frequent urination, excessive thirst, and weight loss. You may also notice your cat sitting hunched over a food or water dish but not eating or drinking. A buildup of waste normally removed by the kidneys may make them lethargic and appear unkempt.

CKD can also cause elevated blood pressure, which can affect several important systems, including the heart, brain and eyes. Anemia is also a potential side effect with lethargy and pale gums being the most obvious symptoms.

Older cats need annual or semi-annual kidney screening, even if there are no apparent symptoms. We can use blood tests, urinalysis, ultrasound and other measures to diagnose CKD. No matter what his age, if your cat exhibits any of the symptoms above for a few days, be sure to contact us right away. The sooner we begin to support renal function, the slower the progression of the illness.

There is no cure for CKD, but we can manage the condition to give your cat a higher quality of life. Medications support the existing kidney function and help replace some of the work the kidneys do, and a special diet will be prescribed. Treatment can allow cats to live for up to eight years with CKD.

We are always here to discuss any questions you have about your cat's health and well-being.



Call (512) 321-0506 today to make an appointment!





Kennel Cough

The Symptoms and Treatment of Bordetellosis

Also known as Kennel Cough or Infectious Tracheobronchitis, Canine Bordetellosis is a common and highly contagious respiratory disease caused by various viruses and/or bacteria that work alone or in combination to infect our canine companions. The most common factor of Canine Bordetellosis is the presence of bacterium known as bordetella bronchispetica, though conditions such as parainfluenza, canine adenovirus and the canine herpes virus may also contribute.

Roughly one week after exposure, the symptoms of Kennel Cough usually begin to appear and, if caught soon enough, Canine Bordetellosis can often be treated successfully. These symptoms are very noticeable; mainly a dry, hacking cough where the dog will hang his head, often making choking and retching sounds. Sometimes, coughing can be so intense that it will cause nausea and vomiting.

Infected dogs may have a fever, inflamed mucous membranes in the nose, or conjunctivitis (pink eye), and may cough up white, foamy sputum. A clear nasal discharge is also common with this condition, but a thick yellow or green discharge indicates that the bordetellosis is progressing into pneumonia. Even with medication, symptoms can continue for days or even weeks.

The name Kennel Cough is misleading: Dogs can contract bordetellosis even when playing alone in their back yards! Bordetellosis is spread through the air in tiny droplets that are coughed up by an infected dog. Your dog only needs to be downwind of an infected animal to become ill! Canines can even carry the bacteria in their respiratory tracts for years without an outbreak until their immune system becomes compromised.

Fortunately, we have preventative options that help protect dogs from many of the viruses that cause bordetellosis. Be sure to protect dogs at risk, prevent unnecessary contact with other animals, and contact us if you notice symptoms!



Refer a friend and save! Refer a new client and you'll each **save \$10** on your next doctor's visit!



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