

Kennel Cough

Congratulations on your new family member! Your new dog is currently being treated (or has recently been treated) for kennel cough which is common in places like dog kennels and shelters where large populations of dogs are housed. **Kennel cough** is an upper respiratory infection affecting dogs. It is similar to the human flu virus and there are many mutations of the virus that dogs can catch. Even if a dog is vaccinated with the bordetella vaccine, it is still possible for them to catch a mutated form of the virus. It is highly contagious to other dogs, even vaccinated dogs, and your dog should be kept from nose to nose contact with other dogs until free from symptoms.

A persistent dry cough with a “honking” sound is the main clue your dog’s caught kennel cough. In most cases, they will appear healthy except for the cough. The appetite and activity level usually won’t change, but don’t be alarmed if he or she gags and coughs up a white, foamy phlegm—these signs are often worse after exercise, or if they are excited or pulls against the collar. Some dogs may also develop a fever and nasal discharge. In rare cases the “cold” can evolve into pneumonia, which can be more serious and requires medical attention as soon as possible. Signs include lack of interest in food and/or water, and lack of energy. If you see these signs please contact us right away.

Your dog may be given antibiotics. If you have been given any medications, please give them as indicated. It is important that they finish the entire dose, even if they appear to be feeling better. Aside from medications, if appropriate, you may also provide additional care to help your dog feel better.

- A humidifier or vaporizer can provide some relief. You can also allow your dog into the bathroom while you shower. The steam will help soothe the irritated breathing passages.
- Avoid exposing her to cigarette smoke or other noxious, irritating fumes.
- If your dog pulls against her collar while being walked, replace it with a harness until the coughing subsides.
- Supportive care is very important—be sure your dog is eating, drinking and in a stress-free environment.

If your dog appears to be lethargic or stops eating, please contact CCRC immediately at 248.834.9419 - prior to contacting one of our vets, if at all possible.

If your dog needs to go to the vet, **ONLY** pre-approved visits to **OUR** participating vets will be covered. If you do not get prior approval or choose to take your dog to another vet, CCRC will not be responsible for ANY costs from the visit.