



“Kennel Cough” Alert

July & August 2018

The Lafayette area has recently experienced a particularly virulent outbreak of CIRDC (Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease), commonly referred to as “kennel cough.”

The Bordetella vaccination your dog has already received protects him from most, but not all strains of kennel cough. This means any cases we see at DogWood are from strains of CIRDC that are not covered by the Bordetella vaccination. The good news is that these strains are usually less severe.

Local veterinary clinics tell us this cough has run throughout the community these past few weeks. At our request, a local clinic submitted a specimen from a DogWood DayPlay dog to their lab for analysis. The lab reported negative results for all but Mycoplasma Cynos, a strain of bacteria that is not covered by the Bordetella vaccination. Most cases have been mild and quickly resolved with an antibiotic effective against this strain of bacteria. Puppies and elderly dogs, dogs who have not been exposed to this strain before, and dogs with underlying health or immune system problems are of special concern.

Everywhere dogs gather, such as day care groups, dog parks, or community special event gatherings, a cough can be shared. It can also be carried and spread by dogs up to 7-10 days before any symptoms appear. This makes it impossible for our staff to know which dogs might be carrying the infection. Should a dog in our care start coughing, we immediately separate him from his play group to minimize exposure to others, contact his owner, and see that he returns home as quickly as possible.

If your dog is coughing, you should keep him home and away from other dogs until the cough is completely gone for at least 10 days, even if he is on antibiotics. If you believe he picked up his cough at DogWood, please let us know. If the cough becomes deep and persistent, or if it is accompanied by foamy mucous or a fever, check with your veterinarian to determine if antibiotics and/or a cough suppressant is advised. While the cough itself tends to be self-limiting, there is concern that a more serious secondary condition such as pneumonia might develop.

To do our part to break this cycle as well as protect our clients, DogWood had temporarily suspended any activities where dogs interact. You may have seen us walking our boarders outside of fenced areas to decrease their exposure. We are scrubbing inside and out with an agent that is very effective against this particular pathogen.

We believe we are winning this battle in our facility, but we can't win the war against this outbreak while dogs may still pick up this pathogen in other places and share it with their friends. We plan to re-open DayPlay provisionally for clients who understand the current increased risk and whose dogs have had limited exposure for bringing this kennel cough back to our facility.



Provisional DayPlay at DogWood
From August 20, 2018 to the End-of-this-Cough

We have missed you at DogWood, and we are eager for your dog to return to our DayPlay, but we want to be sure we inform you of current increased risk of exposure to “kennel cough.” We also want to protect others who return to DayPlay as much as we can. Until the current outbreak of Kennel Cough in the Greater Lafayette area, group activities at DogWood will be limited to those who can attest to the following:

_____ My dog has not been in the company of other, non-family dogs for shared activities, including dog parks, community pools, participation in play groups, or visiting a local veterinary clinic for 10 days.

_____ My dog has not exhibited a cough or gag, been feverish, or had other symptoms of illness for 10 days.

_____ My dog has not been exposed to another dog who has exhibited any of the above symptoms for 10 days.

_____ Additionally, I am aware of the current increased risk in the Greater Lafayette Community that my dog will be exposed to the “kennel cough” that is going around and I understand that the DogWood staff cannot guarantee my dog will not contract kennel cough.

Please initial above and sign below.

Name _____ Date _____

Anytime there is an illness “going around,” we will share information with you. Your trust in us is one of our highest priorities, and we strive to be transparent at all times.