



Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friends. That's Franklin Farm.

Kennel Cough and Canine Influenza: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Pet

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What is Kennel Cough?

- Kennel cough, otherwise known as Tracheobronchitis or Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease, is an infectious type of bronchitis that causes a loud, hacking cough.
- More than one type of infection is typically involved. These can include the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and viral infections such as Parainfluenza, Adenovirus type 2, Canine influenza virus, Canine reovirus, Canine respiratory coronavirus and even Canine distemper virus.

How do dogs get kennel cough?

- Infected dogs spread kennel cough through their oral or nasal secretions. Dogs can become infected via casual contact like sniffing, playing or sharing water or food bowls. People who come in contact with infected dogs can also spread the illness through contaminated clothing or hands.
- **Lifestyle risk factors for kennel cough include visiting dog parks, boarding, competing (dog shows, agility, etc.), grooming and doggie daycare. Environments that are filled with heavy dust or smoke, that are cold or that are poorly ventilated can also make dogs more susceptible to infections.**
- **The incubation period for kennel cough is 3-10 days. Dogs are typically symptomatic for 1-3 weeks**
- The severity of infection depends on the patient's stress levels, individual immune system strength and which infectious agents are involved.

How do I know my dog has Kennel cough?

- Infection causes a loud honking cough and sensitivity when the throat is touched. Sometimes patients cough up white foamy material; other times, the cough is non-

productive. This cough can be mild and only last a few days, or in the worst-case scenario, involve life-threatening pneumonia. The majority of dogs feel great except for the cough, and symptoms last anywhere from a few days to two weeks. Family members, however, may get little sleep while their furry friend is coughing.

- If you suspect your pet has kennel cough, please call right away! We will evaluate your pet for a fever or signs of a more serious infection. History of exposure to other dogs or other risk factors often lead to this diagnosis.

How is kennel cough treated?

In many healthy dogs, this infection will clear up on its own after about three to six weeks. To help patients recover more quickly, we may prescribe antibiotics, cough suppressants or anti-inflammatory medications.

How do I prevent kennel cough in my dogs?

- We recommend vaccinating all dogs that come in contact with other dogs on a regular basis, especially if these interactions occur under stressful conditions. Dogs that travel frequently should also be protected.
- To make vaccination as Fear Free as possible, Franklin Farm Veterinary Clinic uses the oral form of the *Bordetella bronchiseptica* vaccine with our patients. The vaccine is often given with a cheese or peanut butter treat, and doggies barely know they have been given a vaccine!
- Studies are mixed on whether the oral vaccine prevents infection for an entire year, so we recommend vaccinating at-risk pets every 6 months.
- *Bordetella bronchiseptica* vaccination may not fully prevent infection. As with human flu vaccines, vaccination minimizes symptoms and duration of illness but may not entirely prevent coughing.
- *Since there are numerous infections that can lead to kennel cough symptoms, one episode of kennel cough will likely not prevent against another infection. We know that cases that involve infection with the bacteria Bordetella bronchiseptica have immunity for 6-12 months.*

What is Canine Influenza:

Canine influenza (also known as dog flu) is a contagious respiratory disease in dogs caused by specific Type A influenza viruses known to infect dogs. These are called “canine influenza viruses.” No human infections with canine influenza have ever been reported. There are two different influenza A dog flu viruses: one is an H3N8 virus and the other is an H3N2 virus.

Canine influenza A(H3N2) viruses are different from seasonal influenza A(H3N2) viruses that spread annually in people.

How Do Dogs Get Canine Influenza:

Almost all dogs are susceptible to canine flu infection, and virus infection tends to spread among dogs housed in kennels and shelters. Canine flu is thought to spread mainly among dogs through respiratory droplets produced during coughing and sneezing from infected dogs, or through contact with contaminated surfaces. Therefore, dog owners whose dogs are coughing or showing other signs of respiratory disease should not expose their dog to other dogs or to cats. Clothing, equipment, surfaces, and hands should be cleaned and disinfected after exposure to dogs showing signs of respiratory disease.

How Do I know My Dog has Canine Influenza:

The signs of this illness in dogs are cough, runny nose, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite, but not all dogs will show signs of illness. The severity of illness associated with canine flu in dogs can range from no signs to severe illness resulting in pneumonia and sometimes death.

Most dogs recover within 2 to 3 weeks. However, some dogs may develop secondary bacterial infections which may lead to more severe illness and pneumonia. Anyone with concerns about their pet's health, or whose pet is showing signs of canine influenza, should contact their veterinarian.

How is canine influenza in dogs treated?

Treatment largely consists of supportive care which helps to keep the dog hydrated and comfortable while its body then mounts an immune response to the infection to facilitate recovery. In the milder form of the disease, this care may include medication to make your dog be more comfortable and fluids to ensure that your dog remains well-hydrated. Broad spectrum antibiotics may be prescribed by your veterinarian if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

How Do I Prevent Canine Influenza in my Dogs:

Vaccines to protect dogs against both H3N8 and H3N2 canine flu are available in the United States. Our veterinarians can provide additional information about these vaccines and whether you should consider vaccinating your dog.

Canine Influenza vaccination may not fully prevent infection. As with human flu vaccines, vaccination minimizes symptoms and duration of illness but may not entirely prevent coughing.

Kennel Cough and Canine Influenza can infect your dog at any time throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns that your dog may be experiencing symptoms, please call us so that we can discuss and make a plan of action.



Pet of the Month – Beau

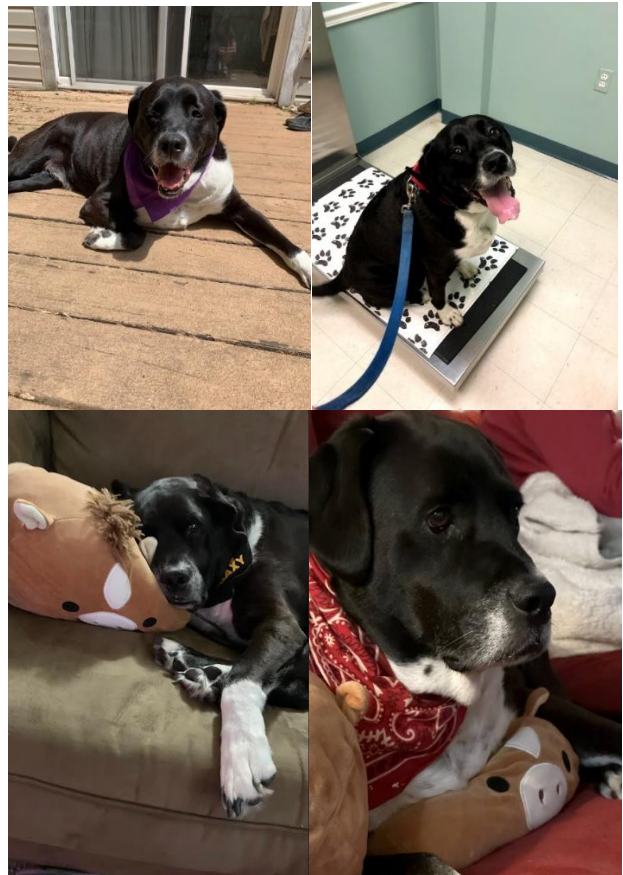
Written By: Camila Herrera

Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: Labrador Retrievers are friendly, outgoing and high-spirited companions. They bond with family members and are very social pups. The Labrador Retriever is an enthusiastic athlete that requires a lot of exercise. They enjoy swimming, marathon games of fetch to keep mentally and physically fit. They are one of the most popular breeds.

Our pet of the month for September is no other than super star, Beau! This handsome boy is 10 years old, is a super sweet boy who loves absolutely everyone! He has never met a stranger he did not like. He enjoys sunbathing on the deck, walking on the neighborhood trail, and snuggling with his family. He has a large bandana collection and loves his nightly Greenie bone. He also enjoys the occasional Starbucks pup cup or Dunkin Donut munchkin. His favorite toy is a squish mallow horse named Phillip. He is very proud to be selected pet of the month :)



Cats Corner



Cat Fact: One of the most popular cat breeds is the Siamese. Popular since the 19th century they originated in Thailand. Most Siamese cats have distinct markings called “points” that are the areas of coloration on their face, ears, feet and tail. They have four traditional Siamese colors which are seal, chocolate, lilac, and blue point, which show on their ears, face, paws and tail.

PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

Due to the many pets needing dental services, we are extending our bookings through September and October. Book your pet's dental cleaning during this time and receive \$100.00 off the cost of the dental cleaning and comprehensive oral exam.



RUFFerral Program:

At Franklin Farm we believe "RUFFerrals" are the greatest form of flattery. Refer a friend and your pet will receive a **\$25.00** credit at your next appointment. Your referral's pet will receive a FREE bag of treats at their first appointment.



Celebrations in September:

Per the CDC, September 28th is World Rabies Day, a global health observance started in 2007 to raise awareness about the world's deadliest infectious disease and bring together partners to enhance prevention and control efforts worldwide.

World Rabies Day is an opportunity to reflect on how rabies impacts your community and other communities around the world. Rabies is still present in many parts of the United States, where it is mostly found in [wildlife](#). Because of high vaccination levels in dogs and cats in the U.S., rabies in pets or other domesticated animals is relatively rare. However, rabies in dogs is common in many other countries. In fact, roughly a quarter of reported human rabies deaths among people in the United States result from dog bites they received during international travel. The best way to protect yourself, your family, and your pets is to [keep dogs and cats up to date on their rabies vaccinations](#). You can also protect yourself and your family by [travelling smartly](#), and avoiding contact with dogs and other animals that may have rabies when you travel outside the country. Find out the rabies status of any country you may be visiting using CDC's [interactive assessment site](#).

Cancellation Policy:

Hello Everyone:

We need your help! If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please call to reschedule or cancel the **appointment more than 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time.**

This allows ample time for other clients to call and get their fur babies seen.

We understand that you all have a lot going on in your lives and unexpected things pop up, so please remember to contact us **more than 24 hours** in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

We have implemented a Cancellation Policy, as follows:

If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please do so **more than 24 hours** in advance of your appointment time. If you reschedule/cancel less than 24 hours leading up to your appointment, or no show, you will be charged for the office visit fee correlating to your appointment.

When you reschedule or cancel **more than 24 hours** in advance, it allows other patients to be seen in your rescheduled/canceled spot. This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance!

