

INFO FOR NEW DOG ADOPTERS - -KENNEL COUGH-



What you should know about Kennel Cough

Congratulations on your new dog! The shelter staff has worked very hard to ensure the health of your dog, but kennel cough is a very common disease in dogs adopted from shelters. Here is some information about this condition and how you can help your newly adopted dog recover and lead a long and healthy life!



Did you know?...

- Kennel cough is very common and contagious but very rarely fatal. The disease is caused by bacteria and/or viruses that spread among dogs and cats in shelters and other places where there are a lot of pets.
- Kennel cough is spread by air and hands. ***Kennel Cough is to animal shelters what the everyday Cold is to daycare centers-It's that common!***



- Kennel cough could spread to your other dogs. Vaccinated, healthy dogs in a home usually develop mild (if any) signs of kennel cough after exposure to a new dog, however, in some cases serious illness may be transmitted. Talk to your vet if you have concerns.
- Kennel cough is manageable in a home. The BEST thing to do for a dog with kennel cough is provide them with a warm, stress-free home. In this environment, most dogs will recover within a few weeks.
- There are vaccines that either prevent kennel cough or reduce the severity, but giving these vaccines to an animal who's already infected *will not* help the animal recover any quicker.
- RARELY, an immuno-compromised person (for example, someone with AIDS or undergoing cancer chemotherapy) could be infected with Bordetella bronchiseptica, one of the bacteria involved in kennel cough. Talk to your doctor if this is a concern.

When should you seek treatment?

You should always take your new dog to a veterinarian within 2 days of adoption, for a routine health check. However, ***if any of your dogs develop a hacking cough, discharge from eyes and nose, lethargy or loss of appetite, you should make an appointment with a veterinarian immediately.***

Sometimes antibiotics are used in treating kennel cough. These medications can be obtained through your regular veterinarian. Severe, untreated cases of kennel cough can develop into pneumonia, so it is important to discuss kennel cough with your vet!



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