

## **Bordetella and Kennel Cough**

### **What is Bordetella?**

Bordetella is bacterial infection that can lead to Kennel Cough and secondary infections. Kennel cough is a term that includes a large variety of highly contagious respiratory illnesses. It is often described as the common cold for dogs.

### **How do dogs get infected?**

Bordetella is passed from dog to dog. It is caught through aerosol droplets, direct contact, or contact with contaminated surfaces. Kennel cough is often spread through areas with a high traffic of dogs moving through such as dog parks, training, boarding, and grooming.

### **How do I know if my dog has this disease?**

Bordetella is often diagnosed symptomatically. The number one symptom of Bordetella is a hoarse cough which generally sets in a couple weeks after being exposed to the bacteria. Dogs may also experience runny nose, sneezing, loss of appetite, lethargy, and a low fever.

### **How can I protect my dog from this disease?**

Bordetella does have a preventative vaccine. This vaccine is regularly updated annually and if your dog is commonly exposed it may be recommended to update every 6 months. It is also important to remember that the vaccine may not completely prevent your dog from getting Kennel Cough as there is such a large variety of causes of the disease. However, the vaccine may lessen the likelihood and the symptoms for your pet.

### **What do I do if my dog gets Bordetella or Kennel Cough?**

If your dog gets Bordetella, the number one step is to keep them home and away from other dogs. Not only does this help prevent the spread of the disease but also lessens the chances of your dog catching a secondary infection. If more severe symptoms occur or your dog is having difficulty sleeping, please call to make an appointment. The vet can prescribe cough medication and potentially antibiotics if needed.

