

## **HEALTH AWARENESS WITH DOGS IN DAYCARE/BOARDING**

### **Papillomatosis (Wart Virus) in Dogs**

This is a virus that causes warts on the dog's mouth area (lip, tongue and gums). It's caused by canine papillomavirus type 1, a contagious DNA virus that can be spread anywhere dogs interact. From our discussions with local vets, this isn't a huge health concern, but wanted to give a heads up to young dog owners specifically because younger dogs with a less developed immune system are more susceptible to the virus. Please check your dog at home for any signs of warts and let us know if you find anything. If so, we will ask that your dog remains out of daycare until the warts have disappeared or you have received a veterinarian clearance that they are no longer contagious. The good news is that the warts are benign and, in most cases, will subside without treatment within a few months.

### **Here is a summary of what we know about the virus**

The term papillomatosis is used to describe a *benign* tumor on the surface of the skin. A virus, known as the papillomavirus, causes the growth.

The general appearance is wart-like, raised, with the central surface having an open pore if the wart is inverted.

The incubation period is 1 to 2 months, so if your dog has oral papillomas he or she got the infection quite some time ago.

Due to the contagious nature of this disease, it is important to separate infected animals from those that are not infected with the papillomavirus.

Once dogs have had the virus, they usually have immunity, and won't succumb to the virus again.

***If you have any other questions, or notice any signs of this virus, please contact your vet***

### **Canine Cough**

Just as human colds may be caused by many different viruses, kennel cough itself can have multiple causes.

One of the most common culprits is a bacterium called Bordetella bronchiseptica m- which is why canine cough is often called Bordetella. Most dogs that become infected with Bordetella are infected with a virus at the same time. Dogs "catch" canine cough when they inhale bacteria or virus particles into their respiratory tract.

## **IT IS AIRBORNE**

### **Symptoms of Canine Cough:**

The classic symptom of canine cough is a persistent, forceful cough. It often sounds like a goose honk. This is distinct from a cough-like sound made by some dogs, especially little ones, which is called a reverse sneeze. Reverse sneezes can be normal in certain dogs and breeds, and usually only indicates the presence of post-nasal drip or a slight irritation of the throat.

Some dogs with canine cough may show other symptoms of illness, including sneezing, a runny nose, or eye discharge.

If your dog has canine cough, they probably will not lose their appetite or have a decreased energy level

### **Treating and Preventing Canine Cough:**

Canine cough is contagious. If you think your dog might have the condition, you should keep them away from other animals and contact your veterinarian.

Although most cases of canine cough will resolve without treatment, medications may speed recovery or minimize symptoms during the course of infection. These include antibiotics that target Bordetella bacteria and cough medicines.

You may also find that keeping your dog in a well-humidified area and using a harness instead of a collar, especially for dogs that strain against a leash, will minimize the coughing.

Most dogs with canine cough recover completely within three weeks, though it can take up to six weeks in older dogs or those with other medical conditions. Because serious, ongoing canine cough infection can lead to pneumonia, be sure to follow up with your veterinarian if your dog doesn't improve within

the expected amount of time. Also, if your dog at any time has symptoms of rapid breathing, not eating, or listlessness, contact your vet right away, as these could be signs of more serious conditions.

### **Bloat in Dogs**

**ACCORDING TO VETS, YOU SHOULD LET YOUR DOG WAIT 2 HOURS AFTER FEEDING BEFORE THEY PLAY OR RUN!**

#### **Causes of GDV:**

Unfortunately, no one >thing has been proven to cause bloat. It is normally seen in the large, deep-chested breeds (Great Danes, Collies, Dobermans, German Shepherds, or Boxers for example), but may also occur in smaller breeds, like Beagles and Bichons. It appears to run in hereditary lines of certain breeds. Eating or drinking too much or too fast has been thought to be a contributing factor, along with excessive exercising before a meal can be digested. Bloat commonly occurs in dogs between the ages of 7 and 12 years.

#### **Signs and symptoms:**

Vomiting, dry heaves, salivation and restlessness may all be signs of bloating, a dog may appear uncomfortable, pace or salivate at this time. They may also just be signs of a stomach ache. The most obvious sign is distention and swelling of the abdominal cavity as the stomach expands. Dogs will often assume an unnatural body posture, standing with head and neck extended. A veterinary hospital will confirm the diagnosis with an abdominal x-ray. GDV causes a total collapse. The dog goes into shock, and ultimately can die from cardiac irregularities.

#### **Treatment**

A GDV case must be attended to rapidly if the pet is to be saved. Unfortunately, according to statistics, over 50% of GVD cases will die even with veterinary attention. Treatment for shock should be started in early phases, and the stomach decompressed. This may be accomplished by passing a stomach tube, but sometimes surgery will be the only option to try to save the pet.

### **Cuts/Scrapes and other injuries**

Cuts, Scrapes and other injuries can and always will be a possible occurrence in a dog daycare setting. We are working with animals, just as people can be having a bad day, and nip at another dog. Puppies have sharp teeth that can leave punctures or marks when they are playing-despite us working with them to not play too hard. Some dogs' nails are long and sharp and will scratch dogs or us during play. Lastly, as we always do our best to prevent a fight from occurring, there is always that risk with animals.

#### **Fleas/Lice/Ticks**

Fleas, lice and ticks can be passed from dogs at all times of the year. It is best to talk to your vet on the best prevention for your dog. Please do not bring your dog in for boarding or daycare if you are aware your dog has any.

#### **Giardia**

Giardia has to be ingested by your dog in order for him to get the parasite. Your dog can get Giardia by drinking water that has been contaminated by feces or by eating something that has been contaminated by feces, like grass. Since dogs love to put things in their mouths, this means that there are plenty of ways your dog can pick up the parasite in his environment, whether it is by chewing on a stick, eating poop, or drinking from a puddle.

#### **Signs and symptoms:**

**Diarrhea, Weight loss, Failure to gain weight, Vomiting, Dehydration, Poor coat appearance**

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR DOG TO DAYCARE/BOARDING UNTIL YOU KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE DIARRHEA/PUKING**

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