

CANINE COUGH FACT SHEET

What you need to know about Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD)

What is CIRD?

- Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease is the medical term for “Canine Cough”
- This is the most common upper respiratory infection of dogs of all ages
- It is recognized by a persistent hacking or honking, gagging, sometimes spasmodic cough
- CIRD can last for days or weeks if left untreated

Which of these situations apply to your dog?

Any one of these common situations can put your dog at increased risk for CIRD

- Dog park visits
- Vet visits
- Grooming
- Day Care
- Boarding
- Multi-dog households
- Daily walks or contact with other dogs
- Chronic heart or lung disease
- Commercial transport
- Recent adoption from shelter, rescue, or pet store environment

What Causes CIRD?

CIRD can be caused by various virus and bacteria acting alone or in combination. These include

- *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, the bacteria most often isolated in dogs with CIRD, is widely present in dogs
- Canine parainfluenza virus (CPIV)
- Canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2)

Is Your Dog at Risk?

Yes, all dogs are at risk for CIRD. Here's why:

- CIRD is easily transmitted when dogs cough or come in contact with each other or with contaminated surfaces
- While all dogs participating in day care or boarding services at Love My Doggy Day Care are required to be vaccinated for Bordetella (and almost every group dog environment has the same requirement), many dogs have not been vaccinated for Bordetella and could be carriers of CIRD
- Puppies are at greater risk for CIRD if they have not been vaccinated yet or have not been previously exposed to CIRD

How is CIRP diagnosed?

- Veterinarians usually rely on visible signs of disease, specifically the characteristic honking or gagging cough. In addition, veterinarians may conduct laboratory tests, including bacterial culture, to aid in the diagnosis.
- A positive response to antibiotics is also an indication of Bordetella infection

How is CIRP treated?

- Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotic therapy.
- If your dog needs help resting, cough suppressants may also be recommended, but you do want to make sure your dog is able to have a “productive” cough to help break up any fluids in the lungs

How does Love My Doggy Day Care handle cases of CIRP?

If your pup contracts CIRP, the policy at Love My Doggy Day Care is to wait one week from the time your dog starts treatment before returning to day care or boarding, assuming he or she is on the expected course of recovery and no longer exhibiting symptoms. We ask that you please contact your vet for his or her opinion before returning as well. This is due to the contagious nature of the bacteria.

If we observe coughing while in our care, we will isolate the pup until you are able to pick him or her up, and we will notify you immediately.

We appreciate your understanding. Our policies are driven by the priority we place on the overall health and wellness of all the dogs in our care.

Handout compliments of:
Love My Doggy Day Care
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