



Newsletter

May 2007

Spotlight on Kennel Cough

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 8am-6.15pm

Saturday 8am-5pm

Sunday 9am-5pm (Closed 12.30-1.30pm)

All consultations by appointment.
Phone 62884944

Closed Public Holidays.

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Kennel Cough (or Canine Cough or infectious tracheobronchitis) is a commonly seen infectious disease of dogs. A harsh hacking cough accompanied with producing a frothy phlegm is the most common symptom. Two organisms are responsible for most cases: a bacteria called *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, and the canine parainfluenza virus. The bacteria is not the same as that which causes human whooping cough, *Bordetella pertussis*.

Infection is generally from aerosols from a coughing dog, though it may be spread on objects. Symptoms occur between two and ten days after being infected, the average being seven days. Dogs most at risk are ones who have been mixing with a lot of other dogs such as in kennels, dog shows or at dog clubs. It is highly contagious so casual contact with a carrier is all that is needed.

We rarely need to do specific tests to make a diagnosis as the clinical findings and history strongly suggest kennel cough in most cases. We may need blood tests and bacterial cultures in unusual cases

and those that don't respond to normal treatment.

For most dogs, kennel cough is mild and self-limiting and not accompanied with serious illness. Supportive care and rest is often all that is needed. Antibiotics may be prescribed for more serious cases. Dogs with severe coughing may

need cough suppressing medication but these are used with caution. Activity and excitement need to be limited and a collar and lead avoided as they press on the trachea.

Vaccination is available for the prevention of kennel cough. We recommend vaccinating all dogs against kennel cough if they are going to boarding kennels and to other places where there are groups of dogs. Two types of vaccines are available which combine *Bordetella* and parainfluenza. One is injected the other is squirted into the nose. The nasal vaccine confers immunity to *Bordetella* in under a week. Annual boosters are needed.

Appointment Times

We have made changes in the times for our appointments and the length of each pet's out-patient visits to our hospital. We have increased the length of our regular consultations from 15 to 20 minutes, but have shortened minor appointments such as post-op suture removal and routine rechecks to 10 minutes.

This system will allow us to spend more time with those pets that need more attention and run our appointments more efficiently, reducing waiting times. There has been no change in our fees.

When you ring for an appointment for a short visit, such as for a Proheart heartworm preventative injection, please tell the receptionist if you have additional concerns that you need to discuss with the vet. We can then make sure that the appropriate amount of time is booked.

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COLOUR OUR CATTERIES!

Weston Creek Veterinary Hospital's catteries are in need of some colour and creativity! If you're between 3 and 12 years of age why not draw or paint us an animal friendly design. The artwork will be featured in both our catteries and we'd be more than happy to arrange for you to come and see our new spruced up areas.

Just drop your pictures in to our reception and we'll put them on display in our catteries.



AND THEN THERE WERE TWO!! By Kylie Murton Receptionist

Back in our February newsletter we introduced you to our budgie Aussie, well now Aussie has a friend who we called Mike.

Mike was found in Jenny's back yard wandering around. Jenny went up to him and he then jumped onto her hand. Mike was suffering from exhaustion so Jenny bought him into the hospital where he spent the next few weeks waiting for an owner to come forward. After no success we decided that Aussie was looking a bit lonely and needed a friend.

After purchasing a bigger

cage and implementing some suggestions about how to introduce a new bird, Aussie and Mike are now the best of friends and enjoy having long conversation with each other.

These are some suggestions on introducing new birds.

House both birds in their own cages in the same room. This allows them to get to know each other from within their own comfortable territory.

Buy a new cage that neither bird have been in and make sure it is big enough

for two birds so they have their own space.

Attend to each bird separately

Watch the birds closely in the first week for any signs of jealousy or incompatibility. Closely monitor both birds and be alert for pulling feathers, biting, screaming, lunging, and other signs of aggression. If any of these things occur, separate the birds immediately.



Aussie & Mike chat about global warming