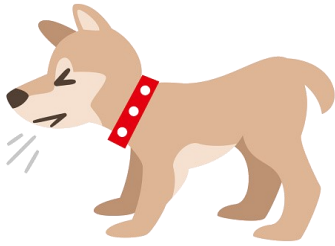


COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER— JUNE 2021

KENNEL COUGH & YOUR DOG

WHAT IS KENNEL COUGH?

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by various viruses and bacteria.



HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Kennel Cough is spread via contact with another infected animal or by inhaling/digesting secretions from an infected nose or mouth. (E.G. a sneeze or cough, shared bowls or toys.



INCUBATION PERIOD

This can be from two days to two weeks.

MILD KENNEL COUGH SYMPTOMS

- Dry, persistent, hacking cough
- Retching and gagging
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Loss of appetite
- Listlessness
- Fever



KENNEL COUGH TREATMENT

Typically most cases are not serious and symptoms will improve without treatment within a few weeks.

Elderly dogs, puppies and dogs with underlying health issues, should be monitored closely as complications can occur.

In some cases, vets may prescribe cough suppressants and anti-inflammatory. Antibiotics will only ever be used if the infection is severe and is caused by a bacteria.



PREVENTION

There is a vaccination which is given in addition to your dog's routine vaccinations. The Kennel cough vaccine is often required if your dog is visiting kennels, mixing with groups of dogs or walking in high traffic areas.



CARING FOR AN OLDER RABBIT

With the improvement in the feeding of rabbits over the last 15 years, we see rabbits living longer and happier lives. A normal sized rabbit can live 10-12 years (dwarf and giant breeds have a much lower life expectancy) and as such, we may see more diseases that are associated with old age.

The most common disease we see in older rabbits is probably arthritis. It is under-diagnosed as signs can be subtle and put down to ageing in general. Arthritis is associated with wear and tear on joints. It is progressive, but can be managed with pain relief and environmental modification. We would be suspicious of arthritis in older animals with urine scald, sore hocks, poor grooming or even gut stasis. X-rays can be taken for confirmation, but sometimes pain relief can be started immediately to try and see the response. It is good to monitor your older rabbit for signs of muscle loss or stiffness. These may be early indicators of arthritis.

Rabbits tolerate certain pain medications well so can be treated successfully. Housing modifications are also important for arthritic rabbits and older rabbits in general. Multiple water sources should be provided, in both bowls and bottles, for easy access, without having to move too far. The same should be applied to food – easy access in more than one site. Easy access to all parts of a run is also important, as is removing leaps and ledges if these are difficult to access. Instead provide safe alternatives on the ground, or with easy step access. Rabbits still need to be able to hide away, in suitable places, to feel safe.



WHY IS MICROCHIPPING IMPORTANT?

We believe microchipping cats is a great plan and now the government is considering making it compulsory. The law to microchip all dogs came into force in 2016 with fines of £500 for non-compliance. Dogs need to be chipped and registered by the breeder before they are 8 weeks old and 9 million dogs have now been chipped. This means more dogs being reunited with owners, less time spent in re-homing centers and less distress to both pets and owners. In the recent rise of animal theft microchipping is also helping to trace those pets which have been stolen and reunite them with their legal owners.

There are 10 million cats in the UK and it is estimated just over a quarter are not chipped. The Cat's Protection League estimate that 8 out of 10 cats arriving at their centers are not chipped. If your cat was to go missing wouldn't you want the reassurance that a chip brings in helping you to be reunited with your pet? After the success of the compulsory microchipping in dogs legislation, why wouldn't we want to protect our cats?



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The Process of inserting a chip is a simple one, carried out at the surgery in a single appointment. They can be done at any age (from about 6 weeks old) and for under £15 - lasting a lifetime.

The chip which is around the size of a grain of rice is placed under the animal's skin in a single injection. It has a unique number which can be read by a scanner and is linked to a data base, which means the pet can be quickly scanned and reunited with the registered owner. It is therefore **very important keep your details up to date**. If your pet is stolen you need to inform data base so that when it is scanned an alert will enable your pet to be returned to you. Although the government legislation is not due to become law until early next year we feel micro-chipping is the strongest tool against the trade in stolen pets. We have adopted the procedure of scanning **all** animals that come into the surgery for their first treatment and offering micro-chipping to any not already chipped. If you would like to get your pet micro-chipped or have any questions please telephone the surgery.



Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers,

