



ISSUE 4

HEALTHY HINTS



DOGS WITH KENNEL COUGH

The most common disease in dogs with “flu-like” symptoms is Kennel Cough. About 3 - 5 days after the initial infection, a coarse, hacking cough is noticed that is often triggered by extra activity or exercise. Many dogs that acquire this disease will cough every few minutes, all day (and night!) long.



How is it spread?

The micro-organisms usually associated with Kennel Cough in dogs are bacteria and viruses. They can be spread in much the same way human “colds” are transmitted, via direct contact or through the air. Wherever there are numbers of dogs confined together in an enclosed environment such as a boarding kennel, hospital or indoor dog show, infections are more likely to spread.

What are the symptoms?

This is a self-limiting disease of 1 – 21 days, with a mean average of 9 days, with some dogs showing only minor signs of coughing for a period of 7 to 10 days and may not require medication at all. These animals may continue to eat, sleep, play and act normally, except for the **annoying, persistent, dry cough**.

What treatment is available?

Treatment for Kennel Cough is generally limited to symptomatic relief of the coughing with cough suppressants and anti-inflammatory doses of corticosteroids. These dogs require a warm, stress-free environment. It is advisable, though, to have any coughing dog examined by your local veterinarian because a number of serious respiratory and even cardiac diseases might display similar sounding coughing. If the dog is running a fever or develops a secondary bacterial infection that will complicate the case and prolong recovery, the vet will usually prescribe a course of antibiotics.

Can kennel cough be prevented?

A number of vaccines are available to stimulate a dog's protective immunity to this disease. Some of the infectious agents such as Canine Parainfluenza and Canine Adenovirus Type 2 are part of the routine vaccinations given to dogs at six, nine and twelve weeks of age as well as the yearly booster. Injectable and intra nasal Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccines are also available. If an animal is going to be exposed to a show, boarding, or populations of other canines, it is advisable to vaccinate a few weeks prior to the potential exposure to allow full protective immunity to build up.

Beware of secondary infections

As always when an animal becomes ill to whatever disease there will be a drop in its immune system and with it the risk of secondary infections. Good hygiene practice using a broad spectrum disinfectant, such as **F10SC Veterinary Disinfectant**, approved and

registered for the elimination of animal diseases will significantly reduce that risk.

WHEN CATS GET SNUFFLES

In cats, the most common “cold” is viral although they can also get a bacterial “cold”. The scientific name for snuffles is **Feline Rhinotracheitis** and the symptoms are very similar to our human flu.

The symptoms

The hallmark of this disease is usually sneezing - cats sneeze in rapid succession. The cat's nose is inflamed and its eyes and throat are usually affected too, causing a runny nose and eyes. The cat may have difficulty swallowing and breathing (open-mouth breathing). Small ulcers may occur in the mouth leading sometimes to salivation. The sense of smell is reduced and the cat will be reluctant to eat and drink. A fever is usually present for 7 – 10 days and these animals generally feel very miserable. Secondary bacterial infections often occur which may lead to conditions like pneumonia. The course of this disease varies from a few days to 4 weeks and some cats may become chronic carriers.

Antibiotic treatment and good nursing

Veterinary attention is essential for cats that suffer from Snuffles. Antibiotics may be prescribed, and good nursing is important. These cats should not be stressed. The cat will need its nasal passages unblocked and daily removal of any discharges followed by a daily face wash of a 1:250 (4ml in 1 litre) solution of F10SC Veterinary Disinfectant (obtainable from your veterinarian). Heated, highly palatable and strong-flavoured food must be provided since the animal's taste and sense of smell are marginal.

Prevention through vaccination

Young kittens should be vaccinated against this disease at the age of 8 and 12 weeks and yearly boosters should be given. It is important to keep up a cat's vaccination programme as they get older.

CANINE DISTEMPER

Canine Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that attacks the respiratory, gastro-intestinal and often nervous systems of puppies and adult dogs. The animals become infected when they come into contact with respiratory secretions of an infected dog. Infection is mainly through airborne exposure, but the virus can also be transmitted through urine and faeces.

Dogs of all ages and breeds are susceptible, but puppies between 3 and 6 months that have not been vaccinated are at particular risk of being infected.

Look out for the signs

The **signs** of the disease are discharges, often pustular, from the eyes and nose, a dry mouth, loss of appetite, red, irritable eyes and fever. As the disease progresses, pneumonia and nervous system symptoms may develop.

Diagnosis is made through clinical examination and laboratory testing and can only be done by a veterinarian.

Even systemic treatment will not kill the virus

The virus cannot be killed in already infected dogs and the aim must be to prevent secondary infections that can be life-threatening to the animal. The vet will treat symptomatically – antibiotics to protect the lungs and gut linings from bacterial invasion; drugs to counteract the dehydration caused by diarrhea and vomiting together with intravenous electrolyte fluids and essential vitamins and nutrients. Good nursing care and an effective hygiene routine are essential.

Get your dog vaccinated!

Once dogs develop nervous system symptoms there is no effective treatment. Excellent **vaccines** are available to protect dogs from Canine Distemper and your vet will be able to advise you.

Dogs with Canine Distemper Virus should be quarantined and must be isolated from any other susceptible dogs.

How to stop these diseases spreading and at the same time minimise secondary infections

The spread of disease from infected to healthy animals can often be avoided by following a few simple basic hygiene rules. When a family pet contracts a viral, bacterial or fungal infection, the first thing to do is to **isolate** the affected animal until the condition has cleared up by placing it in a different location or room together with its bedding, food and drink bowls, toys etc.

It is seldom necessary to hospitalise animals suffering from colds and flu and the comfortable, warm, home environment can be greatly beneficial to a quick recovery. A daily routine of **cleaning and disinfection** of the area, bedding, food and drink bowls should be implemented and maintained until recovery is complete. Fogging (a light spray of fine droplets with a **safe** disinfectant solution) the immediate area that the animal is in can eliminate airborne germs.

Always perform daily chores for the healthy animals before attending to the sick ones to minimise the likelihood of spreading the disease. Care should be taken to **wash hands** thoroughly with a safe and effective **antiseptic soap**, such as **F10 Antiseptic Liquid Soap**, before and after every contact with the affected animal.

It is important to choose products that will be effective and safe to the user or animals and that will not stain or be corrosive or irritant. Only products, such as **F10SC Veterinary Disinfectant** (Reg.No.G3070), that are registered under Act 36 by the Dept of Agriculture as being effective against animal diseases should be used.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

APPLICATION	FREQUENCY	DILUTION /10 LITRES	MINIMUM EXPOSURE
HOUSING Isolate all diagnosed and visibly infected animals immediately. Infected kittens and puppies must be isolated with the mother. Remove all bedding and equipment (e.g. toys, brushes, water and feed bowls) from cages, floors. Soak bedding and equipment in F10SC before washing. Hang to dry / tumble dry. Wash water and feed bowls with warm water and F10SCXD, spray with F10SC and leave to dry. Wash all surfaces (work benches, floors, tables, walls, tiles) with F10SCXD. Using a fine droplet spray fog the animal housing or room with F10SC or use a F10 Aerosol fogger (1 canister per 35m ²)	Daily Daily Daily Daily	100 ml 100 ml 100 ml 100 ml	15 min Leave to dry Leave to dry Leave to dry
STAFF Handling of animals should be limited and involve as few people as possible. Staff movement must be restricted to designated areas. Infected animals and areas should be handled last to avoid cross-contamination. Protective clothing should be worn and discarded or washed and disinfected daily. Proper hand decontamination (running water, F10 antiseptic liquid soap and paper towel to dry or use F10 Hand Gel) must be done after any animals or possible infected material such as bedding had been handled.	Daily In between handling animals	100 ml 4 ml as is	Soak 15 min, hang to dry 30 sec
GENERAL Grass should be kept short and exposed to as much sun as possible. Carrier boxes must be washed (F10SCXD) and disinfected (F10SC) after every use and left to dry. All cleaning equipment (mops, cloths, brushes) must be washed with F10SCXD and disinfected with F10SC at the end of each day.	After every use At the end of each shift	100 ml 100ml	Leave to dry Hang to dry
ANIMAL TREATMENT (where applicable) Wash ALL animals immediately with F10 Germicidal Treatment Shampoo to prevent the disease from spreading. Repeat for up to 3 treatments on every other day on infected animals and once a week on non-infected animals. Apply F10 Germicidal Barrier Ointment to affected lesions once daily. Remove all organic material and ointment with F10SC (1:250) before re-applying the Ointment.	Every other day or as prescribed by veterinarian	As is As is As is 100 ml	Leave 15 min rinse Leave 15 min rinse Leave to dry -

F10[®]

PRODUCTS



VETERINARY PRACTICE



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