



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Kennel Cough Exposure

Below is general information about kennel cough, a condition that can be seen in dogs living together in a kennel. It is similar to kids who commonly share cold viruses at school. This handout is for your information, and to help you monitor the puppy for signs of kennel cough the first few weeks they are home.

### General Information on Kennel Cough:

- “Kennel cough” is a general name for numerous bacteria and viruses that can cause coughing.
- Dogs with kennel cough typically have a dry, harsh, “goose-honk” type cough. People often describe it as sounding like there is “something stuck in the dog’s throat.”
- Green or yellow discharge can be seen from the eyes or nose.
- Kennel cough is spread by secretions from the nose or mouth. These can be aerosolized by sneezing and coughing. They can also be spread by hands, clothing, toys, food bowls, etc. that contacted infected dogs.
- Dogs typically incubate for 2-14 days before showing symptoms of kennel cough. They can still infect other dogs during this incubation time, even if they are not showing symptoms.
- Dogs are often sick for 1-2 weeks, but can sometimes have a residual cough for longer.
- Depending on the severity of symptoms cough suppressants or antibiotics may be recommended. Mild infections often do not need medications. Only give medications prescribed by a veterinarian.
- Bacteria and viruses can still be shed for several weeks after the symptoms resolve.
- Routine disinfectants are effective for cleaning bacteria and viruses that cause kennel cough.

### Monitoring the puppy for kennel cough:

- If the puppy shows signs of kennel cough (see above), have them examined by your local veterinarian. Please also make sure your CFR is notified if the puppy or any dog in your household is diagnosed with kennel cough. This is very important information for your CFR and the GDB Veterinary Clinic to know.

**IF this box is marked**, the puppy you are raising was in a kennel with another puppy showing signs of kennel cough. Please see the reverse side for recommendations for the puppy.

**If you have questions or are not sure if the puppy is showing signs of kennel cough, please contact your puppy club leader or CFR.**

**If the box on the front page is marked, the puppy you are raising was in a kennel with another puppy showing signs of kennel cough. These recommendations ONLY apply if the box on the front page is marked.**

- The puppy should stay at home for the first 2 weeks.
- Do not take the puppy out in public, to club meetings, or areas that public dogs/puppies frequent for two weeks.
- For transporting the puppy, keep the puppy in a washable crate. Disinfect the crate with any routine disinfectant and wash all bedding before using the crate for another dog.
- If the puppy shows signs of kennel cough (see other side), have them examined by your local veterinarian.
- In general we recommend recovering puppies do not interact with other dogs or go to public areas until 2 weeks after their symptoms are fully resolved.
- The puppy cannot return to campus for one month to protect the campus population.
- If the puppy develops kennel cough, please wait at least one month after all symptoms are resolved before the puppy visits campus.
- If you have other dogs at home, they may also develop kennel cough.
- Ways to help reduce the risk of exposure include keeping your other dogs in a separate room from the puppy, washing hands in between handling dogs, and using separate bowls, toys, bedding, etc.
- Dogs in the same household as the puppy also should not go to puppy club meetings for 2 weeks or come to campus for one month after the new puppy arrives at home. If a program dog needs to come to campus before this time frame, please contact your GDB representative.