



# FIDO & FELIX

## BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY, GUMDALE

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## Vaccination & Your Cat

Dangerous Diseases requiring Vaccination

- **Feline Enteritis:** The most dangerous disease affecting cats. Very contagious with a high death rate.
- **Feline Respiratory Disease:** Highly contagious. Causes sneezing, coughing, running eyes, nasal discharge, loss of appetite and tongue ulcers.
- **Feline Chlamydia:** Causes severe and persistent conjunctivitis.
- **Feline Leukaemia:** Attacks the immune system with symptoms including loss of appetite, weight loss, apathy, vomiting, diarrhoea, reproductive problems, leukaemia and tumors.
- **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus:** A disease that affects a cat's immune system in much the same way the HIV (AIDS) does in humans.

We at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels have animal health policies developed by our veterinary consultant and our staff are trained to recognize disease or health issues, but we are not vets.

We insist that all cats boarded at our cattery are up to date with their vaccinations, in line with recommendations from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG). The VGG strongly recommends ALL dogs and cats receive the benefit of vaccination, not only to protect the individual animal, but also to provide 'herd immunity' to minimize the chances of infectious disease outbreaks. All dogs and cats should receive the core vaccines, which protect animals from severe, life-threatening diseases that have global distribution. The core vaccines for cats are feline parvovirus (FPV) also called panleukopaenia, and the "cat flu" vaccines of feline calicivirus (FCV) and feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1). Maternally derived antibody may significantly interfere with the efficacy of core vaccines given to kittens in early life and multiple core vaccine doses is recommended with the final dose at 16 weeks or older and then followed by a booster at 6- or 12-months of age.

Whilst certain dog diseases may only require 3 yearly booster vaccination to maintain immune protection this does not appear to be the case with feline core vaccines. To board at Fido and Felix we insist all cats have been vaccinated within the previous year against FPV, FHV-1 and FCV.

Please be aware that your cat may still get disease, especially cat flu even if it is vaccinated against FCV and FHV-1. Immunity against FCV and FHV-1 is only partial. They are not the only cause of cat flu. 2 other cat flu bugs that can be vaccinated against are bacteria- *Chlamydia* and *Bordetella*. Vaccinating against bacteria may only afford limited protection.

The VGG (2016) states; "FCV vaccines have been designed to produce cross-protective immunity against multiple strains of FCV; however, it is still possible for infection and disease to occur in vaccinated adult animals. There is no FHV-1 vaccine that can protect against infection with virulent virus. Also, FHV-1 infection may become latent with the possibility of reactivation during periods of severe stress. The reactivated virus may cause clinical signs in the vaccinated animal or the virus can be shed to susceptible animals and cause disease in them." Boarding a cat can be the stressor that will reactive a latent herpes virus in a cat. These animals are likely to have acquired the infection as kittens yet catteries are commonly blamed if a cat goes home with the flu. The VGG recommends that annual revaccination of cats against FHV-1/FCV be carried out in higher-risk situations such as boarding cats. Vaccines give the most robust immunity within the 3-month period after vaccination and the VGG recommend vaccines are best if given immediately before a boarding.

Non-core vaccines include feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). The need for FeLV & FIV vaccination must be determined by the lifestyle and exposure risk of individual cats and the prevalence of infection in the local environment. The prevalence of FIV in Queensland is high especially for outdoor cats because of transmission by bites from infected cats. FIV vaccination may benefit some at-risk populations of cats. We prefer, but do not insist that boarding cats be vaccinated against FeLV & FIV.

The 'booster' vaccine traditionally given around 12 months of age is the most important vaccine as it ensures protective immune response develops in cats that have failed to respond to the primary series. It has been suggested that this booster could be brought forward to 6 months of age. Best practice is to have your cat receive a booster just prior to boarding.

In summary-

- all boarded cats must have up to date vaccination for FPV, FCV & FHV-1
- we prefer cats to be also vaccinated against Chlamydia, FeLV & FIV
- ideally the booster vaccination is timed to occur just prior to boarding
- cats may still become ill despite best efforts, particularly with cat flu symptoms



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## **Vaccination & Your Dog**

Dangerous Diseases requiring Vaccination

- **Canine Parvovirus:** A virus attacks the intestines causing blood stained diarrhoea, uncontrollable vomiting and severe abdominal pain. Dogs often die from severe dehydration.
- **Canine Distemper:** Highly contagious. Symptoms can include fever, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, depression, muscle tremors, fits and paralysis which is often fatal.
- **Canine Hepatitis:** Extremely contagious and often fatal. Symptoms include high fever, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and acute abdominal pain.
- **Canine Leptospirosis:** A potentially fatal animal disease that can be passed to humans who may then suffer “flu-like” symptoms that can vary from vomiting and diarrhoea to jaundice.
- **Canine Coronavirus:** A contagious virus that causes depression, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea especially in young dogs.
- **Canine Cough:** Affected dogs have an irritating dry hacking cough which can persist for several weeks.  
*See below for our notes regarding Canine Cough.*

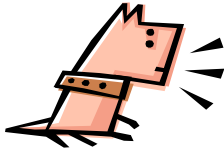
We at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels have animal health policies developed by our veterinary consultant and our staff are trained to recognise disease or health issues, but we are not vets.

Appropriate vaccinations are required before boarding, including against Canine Cough (formerly Kennel Cough). Canine Cough is also known as respiratory disease complex as it is caused by a combination of factors; including viruses, bacteria, stress, and barking, amongst other things.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association state that Canine Cough is not a vaccine preventable disease and the vaccine should only be used to help manage the disease. They recommend the non-core vaccines available for components of the Canine Cough, namely Canine Parainfluenza virus (CPiV) and Bordetella bronchiseptica, be given annually and for Bordetella more often for high-risk animals, for example those going into boarding kennels or shelters. Vaccination of every dog against Bordetella on admission to a large Vet hospital was shown to significantly decrease canine respiratory disease.

Many articles have been written about the prevention and management of Canine Cough in kennels. We, at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels are acutely mindful of this disease. We must insist that all dogs are appropriately vaccinated and not showing signs of contagious disease on entry. We also have procedures to try to decrease the risk of Canine Cough; like age-appropriate animal handling, i.e. attending to the youngest first, isolation of coughing animals and giving low stress environment wherever possible. Despite our best efforts your dog may contract Canine Cough. The population of a boarding kennel, and likewise off leash areas, is transient. Just as the human population has become more mobile so has the pet population; potentially exposing them to infectious agents not found in their homes environment. Dogs rarely die from Canine Cough, but old dogs or dogs with existing heart or lung conditions can suffer more. Should your dog develop a cough after kennelling we would appreciate you letting us know and advise you to seek veterinary assistance.





## LET'S TALK ABOUT

# Canine Cough.....

*One of the public relations problems for boarding kennels and daycare centres today is caused by a much misunderstood dog disease called "canine cough", tracheobronchitis, often improperly referred to as "kennel cough". As a dog owner you should be aware of some of the facts about this disease.*

### **What is "canine cough"?**

Infectious tracheobronchitis is a highly contagious, upper-respiratory disease that is spread by an airborne virus. The incubation period of the disease is roughly 3-7 days. The main symptom is a gagging cough, sometimes accompanied by sneezing and nasal discharge, which can last anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Although this coughing is very annoying, it does not usually develop into anything more serious. However, just as with the common cold, it can lower the dog's resistance to other disease thus increasing susceptibility to secondary infections, and so the dog must be observed closely to avoid complications.

### **How is it cured?**

Just as in the case of the common cold, tracheobronchitis is not "cured" but must run its course. Many times antibiotics will be prescribed to prevent secondary infection, and sometimes cough suppressants will be prescribed to reduce excessive coughing, but these medications do not attack the disease itself.

### **Does tracheobronchitis occur only in kennels or daycare centres?**

No. Since these viruses can be present anywhere, and can travel for considerable distances through the air, they can affect any dog...even one which never leaves its own back yard. But tracheobronchitis is more likely to occur when the concentration of dogs is greater such as dog shows, kennels, veterinarian clinics and hospitals as well as pet shops and dog daycare centres. Dogs can also be exposed while running loose or while being walked near other dogs.

### **But aren't the chances of catching it greater when a dog is in a kennel or daycare?**

Yes.... because, in a kennel or daycare environment, a dog encounters two conditions which do not exist at home...proximity to a number of potentially contagious dogs, and the stress and excitement of a less familiar environment, which can result in lowered resistance to disease (these same factors explain why children are more likely to catch the flu in school rather than at home). But the more frequently a dog boards at a kennel, the greater are the chances that he will acquire immunity to the disease. Even during a widespread outbreak, only a fairly small percentage of exposed dogs are affected.

### **Can't the kennel prevent my dog from catching tracheobronchitis?**

Unfortunately, no....no amount of supervision, sanitation, or personalised care can prevent a dog from "catching" an airborne virus. All that a good boarding kennel can do is to strongly recommend immunisation against tracheobronchitis, refuse to board any obviously sick dog, listen and watch for any signs of sickness, and make sure that any dog requiring veterinary attention receives it as quickly as possible. (Strangely, the dog with parainfluenza alone may not appear ill, yet is contagious). Professional boarding kennels and daycare centres would justifiably expect owners to accept the financial responsibility for such care. Your PIAA member is devoted to your pet's well being. Look for his membership certificate proudly displayed.

### **Are these viruses a constant problem?**

No. Tracheobronchitis, like the flu, is often seasonal. It also tends to be epidemic. When veterinarians begin to see cases, they normally come from every kennel in the area, as well as from individual dog owners whose dogs are not kennelled at all. When the outbreak is over, they might not see another case for months.

### **Can my dog be vaccinated to protect him against tracheobronchitis?**

Yes! Vaccines against parainfluenza and adenovirus type 2 (in combination with other vaccines) are routinely used as part of an adult dog's yearly check up. Puppies are usually vaccinated for these in combination with distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus in a series of immunisations. It is important to note that the vaccines that are used to prevent this viral disease are made from one strain of more than 100 different strains of the virus and therefore are not as effective against some strains as others. Intra-nasal vaccines are also available for **Bordetella bronchiseptica** (another cause of canine cough). Although some veterinary practices do not use this intra-nasal vaccination

routinely, it should be considered for pets that board or for those whose veterinarian recommends it. Your veterinarian is in the best position to recommend a program of preventive health care management depending on your pet's needs.



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