

















# Paw Works

## KENNEL COUGH AND UPPER RESPIRATORY (URI) INFORMATION \*

Congratulations on the new addition to your family!

The rescue staff has worked very hard to ensure the health of your dog, but kennel cough/uri is a very common disease in dogs adopted from shelter environments.

### **1) Kennel cough/URI is common, contagious, and very rarely fatal.**

- ~The disease is a chronic bronchitis with cough, caused by bacteria and viruses spread among dogs/cats in shelters.
- ~URI is like a common cold with sneezing, eye & nasal discharge and loss of appetite.
- ~Kennel cough is spread by air and therefore is as common in animal shelter as the common cold is in a day care center.

### **2) Kennel cough /URI could spread to your other dogs.**

- ~Vaccinated, healthy dogs in a home usually develop mild if any signs of kennel cough after exposure to a new dog. Talk to your veterinarian if you have concerns.
- ~RARELY, an immunocompromised person (with AIDS or undergoing cancer chemotherapy) could be infected with Bordetella bronchiseptica, one of the bacteria involved in kennel cough. If someone in the family is severely immunocompromised, please discuss kennel cough with your physician.

### **3) Kennel cough/URI is manageable in a home environment.**

- ~The BEST thing to do for a dog with kennel cough/URI is provide them with a warm, stress-free home. In this environment most dogs will recover within a few weeks.
- ~There are vaccines that either prevent kennel cough or reduce the severity, but giving these vaccines to an animal who is already infected will not help the animal recover any quicker.
- ~Sometimes cough suppressants and antibiotics are used in kennel cough, and may help the dog deal with the disease. These medications can be obtained through your regular veterinarian.
- ~Severe, untreated cases of kennel cough/URI can develop into pneumonia, so it is important to discuss both with your veterinarian.

### **4) When to seek treatment.**

- ~We recommend that all newly adopted dogs be seen by a veterinarian within 3 days of adoption, for a routine health check.
- ~If any of your dogs develop a hacking cough or discharge from eyes and nose, you should make an appointment with a veterinarian.

**Paw Works will NOT reimburse you for any fees associated with the treatment and/or care of your new or existing pet.**

You may return the animal but no refund of the adoption tax deductible donation will be issued.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_