What is Kennel Cough?

By Dailyn Souder

It’s the time of year again where people are traveling for the holidays and that means more and more people will be boarding their dogs and cats into kennels while family comes to town. Before entering your pet into your local kennel, whether connected to a veterinary clinic or an independent establishment, it’s important to get them vaccinated for kennel cough. So what is kennel cough and what does it look and sound like? “One of the most common culprits is a bacterium called *Bordetella bronchiseptica* -- which is why kennel cough is often called Bordetella” (WebMD pets). It is contracted through the upper respiratory tract and makes your dog or cat cough up obscene amounts of mucus matched with a coarse and obvious cough. Kennel Cough is contagious, and while it can be cured by antibiotics, it can leave a dog susceptible for contracting other serious infections. The Bordetella vaccine is inexpensive and can be given in multiple ways, so be sure to check with your vet and keep your dog safe before you put them in boarding.
Four Common Causes of Hair Loss

Demodicosis – one of the diseases commonly referred to as “mange”, this is caused by an overpopulation of mites of the species Demodex canis. Demodicosis is very common on young dogs and has a wide variety of presentations. Small, irregular patches of hair loss on the face (especially around the eyes), paws, back legs, and trunk of the body are very suspect for Demodicosis. However, if the infestation advances from localized to generalized, then the animal can lose hair over most of its body. Animals with generalized demodicosis also tend to get secondary bacterial infections in their skin. Demodex mites are typically fairly easy to obtain on a skin scrape and suspected demodicosis should always be confirmed with a skin scrape.

Sarcoptic mange (scabies) – another disease commonly referred to as “mange”, Sarcoptic Mange is caused by an infestation of Sarcoptes scabiei. Scabies is incredibly itchy and affected animals will oftentimes scratch themselves aggressively even if their overall hair loss is minimal. There are a few characteristic areas for animals to lose hair when they are affected by scabies: the edges of the ears, the elbows, the hocks (ankles), and the chest. Advanced scabies can and will cause hair loss over large portions of the body beyond these areas. Scabies can be seen in animals of any age. These mites are much more difficult to obtain on a skin scrape; oftentimes a negative skin scrape is seen on affected animals. Humans can catch scabies from afflicted animals, but the mites that infect dogs are of a different subspecies than those that infect humans, so the infection is self-limiting – that is, it will go away on its own without treatment.
The Good, the Bald, and the Ugly Part II (cont.)

Ringworm (dermatophytosis) – a favorite of cats and puppies, ringworm is caused by a variety of fungi, most commonly *Microsporum canis* in both cats and dogs. This infection causes scaly, grey patches of hair loss, often on the face, paws, and tail. These patches of hair loss are often perfectly round, but can also be irregularly shaped. This is by far the most common cause of hair loss in cats. The most reliable way to diagnose ringworm is to culture hair from the affected spot on the animal. Humans can catch this from their pets – especially if they sleep in the same bed together.

Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD) – FAD is seen more often on adult animals and is the result of an allergy to flea bites. Animals with a flea allergy do not actually need to have a flea infestation to exhibit symptoms – often, a bite from a single flea can be sufficient to cause a reaction in an afflicted animal. FAD is extremely itchy and causes a very unusual hair loss pattern in most affected dogs: the loss of hair from the ribs and back. Cats may also show the same pattern of hair loss, but more often lose hair on their neck (from scratching) and may also demonstrate hair loss that is symmetrical on both sides of the body (from excessive grooming behavior caused by the itching).

Though this list is far from comprehensive, the above diseases and disorders cause a significant portion of hair loss cases in animals. Their identification and treatment is key – not only for the welfare of the animal, but for the health of the animals and people they may come into contact with.
For this issue we will look across the ocean and discuss the number one veterinary school in the United Kingdom and 3rd ranked veterinary college worldwide, The Royal Veterinary College. The college offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing professional development (CPD) programs in veterinary medicine. The college has two locations, one in London and one in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

London is of course a major city that would provide a much different experience than the small college town in Fort Collins. Hatfield, Hertfordshire is a small town located north of London. The small town offers plenty of historical sites and a rich tie to the past.

The school offers five different departments; comparative biomedical sciences, clinical sciences and services, pathology and pathogen biology, production and population health, and professional services. The school also has a fully equipped teaching hospital. The hospital provides care for small animals, equine and farm animals. The college provides international student programs for both undergraduates and graduate programs.

The Royal Veterinary College offers a pre-vet summer school that occurs for two weeks towards the end of the summer. The website indicates the price would be about 2,500 dollars (£2,300) which includes accommodations, breakfast, lunch, and evening meals. It also includes social activities specified in the program but it does not include visa costs, airfares, and travel. The program aims to give students experience in their globally recognized animal hospital, gain a taste of the student life at the college, and explore London. The application is now open for the 2016 program.

To find more information about the college you can visit their website at http://www.rvc.ac.uk/. However, given that the program is international my recommendation is that if you are interested in the summer program speak to a study abroad advisor at Colorado State University and if you are interested in finding out more about the veterinary program speak to Ann Bowen, Veterinary Medicine Advisor.
Gaining Experience

W.O.L.F Sanctuary

Looking to gain more experience with exotic animals? If the answer is yes, then the W.O.L.F Sanctuary is the right place for you. Located in the Rockies behind Fort Collins, the W.O.L.F Sanctuary rescues and permanently houses several different wolf-dog mixes. By working at this center you will gain experience with an interesting breed of dog and learn to better understand the behavior of wolves.

There are several different volunteer positions available and you can go from working with the animals to taking care of the administrative tasks. The sanctuary requires you to fill out an application and attend a tour/orientation before being able to volunteer. Volunteers are asked to work a minimum of two shifts a month that will be scheduled in advance. Volunteers are also asked to attend a training course and pay a yearly fee to be considered an active member. Similar to other centers that work with wild animals, there are levels of training you must complete in order to advance. The longer and more often you work at the center the sooner you will be able to work directly with the animals.

The center is not accessible by bike but there is a carpool system the sanctuary employs. The sanctuary is only allowed to have a certain number of vehicles on their property for emergency reasons, so the carpool system is usually employed in all situations. The last location of the carpool pick up spot was located on the North-West side of town and can be reached by bike but is a fair distance from campus. However, do not let your transportation situation prevent you from volunteering because there are several students who go to Colorado State University who can provide carpooling. Overall, this is a great center with a great program and if you want to walk on the wild side, I recommend this sanctuary.
Thanks for the great picture Ashley Larson! We love getting pictures from our members!
**Q:** Why did the cow cross the road?
**A:** To get to the udder side.

**Q:** What is as big as an elephant but weighs nothing?
**A:** Its shadow!

**Q:** Why was the cat afraid of a tree?
**A:** Because of the bark!

**Q:** What do you call a bruise on a T-Rex?
**A:** A dino-sore!
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January

SUN  MON  TUE  WED  THU  FRI  SAT

3  4  5  6  7  8  9

10  11  12  13  14  15  16

17  18  19  Last Day to Submit Items for the February Newsletter  20  21  22  23

24  Chalking Library 6:00pm  25  26  27  General Meeting 5:30pm Clark A201

27

28  29  30  31

Blue box= social activities  Purple box= committee activity  
Black box= meeting  Red box= Educational/ community activity