

# CIRD Best Practices for NFT 2017

## Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD)



### 1. What is CIRD?

CIRD is commonly known as “kennel cough”. CIRD is usually self-limiting and is rarely fatal. It is usually a mix of bacterial and viral agents. Bordetella (aka Kennel Cough or Canine Cough) is the most common bacterial agent. The most common viruses involved are canine influenza (CIV), canine parainfluenza, canine adenovirus 2, canine reovirus, and canine respiratory coronavirus. Other infections like mycoplasmas and canine distemper can also cause severe and potentially fatal complications, such as pneumonia.

CIRD is an airborne infection with an incubation period of 2–14 days. It appears in two main forms. The milder form lasts 1–3 weeks. Infected dogs shed the Bordetella organism for 2 -3 months post-infection.

For a complete CIRD overview:

[https://www.zoetisus.com/products/dogs/bronchicine/pdf/cird\\_technical\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www.zoetisus.com/products/dogs/bronchicine/pdf/cird_technical_bulletin.pdf)

For more information about CIV:

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Canine-Influenza-Backgrounder.aspx>

<http://o.zoetisus.com/BIOS-CIV-Questions.html>

### Mild CIRD symptoms

- + fever\*\*
  - + runny nose
  - + red or watery eyes
  - + dry, hacking cough which can lead to retching and vomiting pneumonia might follow the mild disease.
- \*\* Fever is more common in severe form. When a cough is caused by Canine Influenza (CIV), it is often accompanied by a high fever and nasal discharge.

**Severe CIRD symptoms:** More common in dogs with an uncertain vaccination history. In some cases, the severe form could be fatal.

### + fever & clear nasal discharge— could indicate CIV (H3N2 or H3N8)

- + dry, hacking, forceful coughs; sometimes a painful cough
- + lethargy
- + inappetence
- + retching
- + foamy mucus
- + can progress to severe broncho-pneumonia
- + puppies and older dogs are at greater risk

CIRD is a highly contagious disease. In order to prevent infection, local immunity must be created in the respiratory tract. An intranasal vaccination or oral vaccination for Bordetella may be administered by a veterinarian to provide safe, effective protection from the disease. No vaccination is 100% effective, but may lessen severity of disease if contracted.

Vaccination for Bordetella is estimated to be protective 3-7 days post-vaccination but will not be effective if a dog has already been exposed. Vaccinations for CIV (H3N8 or H3N2) often require two shots, 3 weeks apart, and should be given at least 30 days prior to any event. Again, vaccines are not 100% effective against all strains.

**Please check with your veterinarian and plan a vaccination schedule appropriate for your dog’s exposure \*before\* attending any event. When returning home with exposed dogs, please keep separate from dogs who did not attend the event, especially puppies, seniors or dogs with compromised immune symptoms (eg. dog recently treated with chemo).**

## **2. How is CIRDC spread?**

CIRDC can survive on inanimate objects like crates, harnesses, water bowls, food bowls, bedding, and human clothing for 24 hours and can live on a person's hands for about 12 hours. Infected dogs can shed for 2 -3 months.

- + through respiratory secretions or oral secretions (like saliva) from infected dogs (eg., nose-to-nose, sneezing or coughing, shared water sources)
- + from contaminated inanimate objects (eg., human clothing, equipment or surfaces where infected dogs have been)
- + stress and poor hygiene can make dogs more susceptible
- + through the air
- + Dogs typically show signs of the disease 2 to 4 days after exposure. This incubation period between exposure and when symptoms develop is when dogs are the most contagious to other dogs. Dogs can shed the virus for up to 7 to 10 days after exposure and continue to be contagious during this time. Because of this, infected dogs need to be quarantined from other dogs for about 2 weeks. **Dogs with confirmed CIRDC should be kept in isolation for at least 21 days.**

## **3. How can you prevent the spread of CIRDC? Avoidance and vaccination.**

- + do not bring a symptomatic dog to the event
- + avoid nose-to-nose contact with other dogs and off-leash play with other dogs
- + do not allow dogs to "kiss" or lick you in the face
- + do not share water or food bowls, leashes, bedding or crates
- + keep crate doors closed when empty
- + wash hands before and after handling different dogs
- + change clothes after handling dogs; bring clean clothes and shoes to wear upon return home
- + if your dog is coughing, separate from other dogs and seek immediate veterinary care and diagnosis
- + Dogs diagnosed with CIRDC must be isolated for at least 21 days.

**\*\*If you suspect your dog is sick, please contact Melissa Thomas (Emergency Coordinator) immediately. Cell: 915/487.9419**

Note: Even if a dog has been immunized for common Bordetella sp., for example, a dog can be infected by different or resistant species. Vaccination, fastidious sanitation practices, and seeking veterinary attention as soon as the dog starts coughing will go a long way to prevent spread of infection.

## **Veterinarian Emergency Services**

Sparta Animal Clinic  
1031 South St. Louis Street  
Sparta IL 62286

<http://spartaac.com/contact-us.html>

ph: 618/443-2011

Directions: From Denmark Unit, turn left and take Pyatt-Cutler Rd/Co Hwy 4 W (5.5 miles). Turn right onto IL-4 N (1.0 miles). Turn left onto IL-150 W/IL-4 N (6.2 miles). Turn right onto IL-4 N (6.5 miles) into Sparta.

**Best precaution, though, is keep sick dogs at home and isolated from other dogs.**

*This CIRDC Advisory has been prepared by the VCA Welfare Foundation  
in partnership with the Vizsla Club of America*

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