



August 17, 2012

Hi All:

We have experienced a Bordetella outbreak at our dog park this week. It is difficult to track the source - but our latest count is 8 dogs....with varying degrees of symptoms from kennel cough to pneumonia. All of our 4-Legged in question have been to their respective Vets and treated as appropriate for their individual circumstances. We also have an unrelated bacteria going around that causes extreme diarrhea and should also be treated by a Vet. This one usually starts from eating bad/spoiled meat or infected soil, as in exposure to poop.

Most Bordetella outbreaks are aerosol driven - meaning sneezing on another dog - or sharing the saliva directly. We started seeing symptoms usually coughing or “reverse sneezing” or honking on Monday (8/13/12) and more dogs have been added to the list as the week continued. For this reason – we want to make certain that every member is notified, hence this letter.

Out of an abundance of caution, on Thursday we threw away all tennis balls. We washed and disinfected all hard rubber or plastic toys and water bowls and either threw away or ran rope toys through the dishwasher to kill any existing bacteria.

The dogs involved will not return to the dog park - until they are officially cleared from their Vet and told their 4-Legged is no longer contagious. Everyone is on the honor system for this.

We strongly urge you to get your dog (s) vaccinated for Bordetella, if not already vaccinated. This is highly contagious and spreads like a wildfire - so let's all be on the safe side. Please get vaccinated.

Since we are dumping the old tennis balls, tugs and other toys, **we are requesting that members bring some replacement toys**. Thanks for all your help and understanding.

SWCDP Board

PS

If your dog has symptoms – or you know of any dog with such symptoms - please notify us privately - we simply want to keep up with the outbreak and know the time line and numbers.

Southwest City Dog Park is managed by SWCDP, a volunteer, non-profit (501c) organization
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