

**Preventative Measures**

**Welcome to Emerald Street Kennels!** We appreciate your business and we are dedicated to insuring that your pet has a happy, healthy and safe stay with us whether for a day, a month or longer. With this goal in mind we have created this document.

Much like a child’s daycare your pet is at a higher risk of potential exposure to various illnesses at a doggie daycare/boarding facility than he or she would be if out for a walk or sitting on his/her favorite living room chair. The purpose of this document is to educate pet owners regarding these various illnesses as well as to inform you of the steps you can take to help prevent or decrease this risk. Again, as part of our pledge to you to keep your beloved pet as healthy as possible, we feel that it is both a necessity and advantageous to inform our customers of the following.

**Kennel Cough/Upper Respiratory - Illness**

There are a handful of veterinarians in the Treasure Valley who believe that a Bordetella vaccination administered yearly is sufficient; however, as mentioned above, your dog is at a higher risk while at day care or boarding. Therefore it is recommended by the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association), UC Davis and AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) among others to vaccinate for Bordetella every 6 months. Due to the findings of these groups, Emerald Street Kennels requires your pet to have a 6 month Bordetella for everyone’s safety. However, in the past few years some veterinarians have started to administer a new 1 year Bordetella that has a manufacture guarantee. Pfizer and Bronchial Shield are a couple known 1 year Bordetella manufactures. Those pets given the 1 year vaccine and in some cases any dog that would be infected by those who have had that 1 year vaccine are covered under the manufacture guarantee for all veterinarian expenses occurred. In these cases, a waiver has been created and to be signed by owners of pets that had a 1 year Bordetella administered.

“Bordetella” is a term that can in actuality cover a number of infectious respiratory ailments. Often times a diagnosis of kennel cough is given regardless if it is kennel cough or not. A test can be performed to determine your pet’s exact aliment, but due to the cost of the test and the fact that for most of these respiratory ailments the treatment can be very similar; this test is not often performed. As any veterinarian will tell you the Bordetella vaccine is not 100% effective; however it will decrease the symptoms or lessen the severity if you dog does in fact get kennel cough.

Again, it is very similar to a child’s daycare. Much like people dogs can get over a cold or the flu on their own without antibiotics; however they too can develop complications such as pneumonia so it is best to contact your veterinarian with any questions or concerns.



At Emerald Street Kennels we are constantly on guard to insure your pet is returned to you happy and healthy. Some of the protocols in place to prevent outbreaks are: observe all pets when they first arrive for any signs of illness, requiring Bordetella vaccine to be given 3-5 days prior to daycare/overnight boarding, daily monitoring

of pets food, water intake, weight checks (three times a week), daily monitoring of urine and bowel movements, daily cleaning of all surfaces including but not limited to: our 3/8” rubber matting in rooms, walls, condos, and dog turf, installation of non-porous “polywall” sheets over playroom walls to prevent bacteria from nesting in the walls and daily monitoring for signs of illness. If signs are found, we will fill out a report (monitoring pet closely at this point by shift leads and management) notify you (the owner), segregate and if requested by you; transport your pet to the vet for diagnosis and medicine (if required).

**Kennel Cough/Upper Respiratory – Prevention**

As mentioned above, Emerald Street Kennels recommends giving your pet a 6 month Bordetella vaccine to prevent/decrease the symptoms or lessen the severity. It is best to give the vaccine 3-5 days prior to boarding as (again, much like a person receiving a flu shot) your pet has the slight potential of contracting kennel cough from the vaccination itself. If you are unable to administer the vaccine 3-5 days prior to boarding we will segregate your pet and they will not be able to, understandably, go into the open play rooms until the above time has lapsed. However, rest assured your pet will go outside every 2-1/2 to 3 hours one on one with a handler in our 1/3 acre play area. If no signs are observed after being segregated your pet will be allowed into open play areas.

**Topical Parasites**

Known topical parasites in Idaho are ticks, and to a lesser degree fleas and lice. The two most common forms of transmission for these little critters are via direct pet to pet contact or from contaminated bedding. At Emerald Street Kennels we launder bedding on a daily basis and check any pets that display signs that they may have parasites, such as itching and skin irritation.

***Prevention***

Topical parasites such as fleas, ticks and lice can easily be prevented by applying a monthly preventative such as Frontline Plus. It is best to apply this medication at least 48 hours prior to boarding. If you are unable to apply within 48 hours or there remains a visible greasy spot (from the application) please let us know, as oral ingestion of this application by another dog is not advisable. We will place your pet in daycare once the 48 hours has been established and/or the greasy area has dissipated.



**Intestinal Parasites**

The four most common types of intestinal worms in dogs are roundworm, tapeworm, hookworms, and whipworms. Pets can acquire these parasites through a variety of methods, including but not limited to: contaminated soil ingested by self-cleaning (i.e. licking paws that contain contaminated soil), ingesting contaminated stool, ingesting a flea, ingesting a contaminated rodent, passed on from a contaminated mother to her offspring or the parasite burrowing through the skin. To prevent the spread of parasites Emerald Street Kennels staff immediately pick up feces and hose down the area including pooper scoopers. In addition, we are able to clean the majority of the building *throughout* the day by cleaning various pre-defined sections on a rotational basis. Our cleaning staff dedicates their time/themselves to thoroughly power wash dog condos while the dogs are at play, provide pets with fresh dishes and bedding, vacuum, disinfect trampoline beds, and squeegee among various other cleaning tasks. Lastly, our end of day cleaning protocol includes but not limited to: sweeping, vacuuming, moping, disinfecting all dog turf, play room rubber matting, and walk ways.

***Prevention***

Many prescribed monthly oral heartworm preventative medications, such as Heartguard plus, Interceptor etc. will eliminate other parasites such ashookworms**,** whipworms and roundworms. If you suspect your pet has acquired one of these intestinal parasites a vet appointment is recommended. Monthly prescribed heartworm preventatives are just that; a preventative not a treatment. Fecal testing is usually recommended by your veterinarian annually and or if you suspect your pet has parasites. Veterinarians do this to determine what parasite your pet may have and prescribe appropriate medications. Be aware that not all over-the-counter dewormer’s are effective. Your veterinarian is the best source for this medication.

We at Emerald Street Kennel hope that this document will help you to not only understand the risks that exist at any dog day care/boarding facility but also to educate you as to what you can do to help keep your pet safe.

Lastly, remember that routine vet visits are vital to [keeping your dog healthy](http://dogs.about.com/od/dogandpuppyhealth/a/healthydog.htm). Please let us know if you have any further questions. We would be happy to help!