

## Supplementary Material

### Example Information for Adopters including Medical Waiver language

#### Feline Bordetella Infection: What Our Community Needs to Know!

##### *General Information*

*Bordetella bronchiseptica* (Bb) is a bacterium commonly associated with infectious respiratory disease in dogs known as “kennel cough.” *Bordetella bronchiseptica* can also cause respiratory disease in cats. Coughing, discharge from eyes and nose, sneezing, decreased appetite, and lethargy are symptoms in cats. Usually, the disease is mild, however more severe symptoms or pneumonia may develop in some animals. Cats acquire the infection from sick cats or dogs, shed bacteria in their oral and nasal secretions and potentially infect other cats and dogs. This infectious disease may spread quickly when multiple animals are housed in a shelter environment. Common disinfectants typically kill this bacteria on surfaces.

Cats who show symptoms of respiratory disease can have a test performed to determine what viruses or bacteria may be contributing. Cats who are ill with this disease are treated with antibiotics. When a cat no longer has symptoms, the cat is considered recovered. Such cats have a greatly reduced chance of spreading infection to other animals.

##### *Feline Bordetellosis in [X animal shelter]*

Recently, cats at [X animal shelter] experienced respiratory disease due to this particular bacteria. This is unusual. We consulted a veterinarian and acted quickly to perform diagnostic testing and separate sick cats from healthy cats. We treated affected cats and administered a vaccine to cats and dogs. Cats were monitored for resolution of related symptoms and made available for adoption when symptoms were no longer present.

##### *Adopting a Cat from [X animal shelter]*

The risk of having a recovered cat give the disease to other animals is low. However, if you have an older or immune compromised cat or dog, your veterinarian may recommend that your current pet receive a vaccine specific for *Bordetella bronchiseptica* before bringing your newly adopted cat home. The vaccine is typically not included in vaccines that cats (and some dogs) routinely receive, so be sure to speak to your veterinarian. Spread to humans is very rare but possible in people with compromised immune systems (for example, on chemotherapy).

**Thank you** for adopting a cat from [X Animal Shelter] and partnering with us to accomplish life-saving work in our community. If your newly adopted cat shows signs of respiratory disease (Ex coughing, sneezing, discharge from nose or eyes), please contact your veterinarian or call [X animal shelter] for assistance