

Dedicated professionals and volunteers caring for the many stray and unwanted dogs and cats of Fulton County.



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Our Mission Statement

The James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society is a non-profit, compassionate organization devoted to securing permanent, responsible, loving homes for the animals of Fulton County. The organization strives to achieve its mission through education and prevention of animal suffering. This shelter serves the Fulton County community in many ways:

1. *Provides shelter, food, water, medical care and safety to stray, homeless and unwanted cats and dogs.*
2. *Helps families find new animal companion.*
3. *Returns lost pets to their owners.*
4. *Teaches humane education in schools, kindness towards animals: safety around animals, the link between animal cruelty and violence against humans and builds self-confidence.*
5. *Has the most aggressive Spay/Neuter Program for low-income families in Fulton County.*
6. *Pet Food Bank for Seniors in Fulton County, helping seniors with financial difficulties feeding their companions.*
7. *Girl Scouts merit badge programs.*
8. *Alternative School Program, providing work-study opportunities for students. Advocates for Animal Law at the State and Federal levels.*
9. *Perhaps most importantly the Brennan Humane Society provides a tangible example of humane ethics and compassion for all living*

Kennel Cough

Client Information Handout: Kennel Cough

The shelter staff has worked very hard to ensure the health of its dogs, but kennel cough is a very common disease in dogs adopted from shelters. Here is some information about this condition and you on how you can help your newly adopted dog to recover from this condition and lead a long and healthy life!

Kennel cough is common, contagious, and very rarely fatal. The disease is caused by bacteria and/or viruses that spread among dogs and cats in shelters.

Kennel cough is spread by air and hands, therefore is as common in animal shelter as the common cold is in a day care center.

Kennel cough could spread to your other dogs. Vaccinated. Healthy dogs in a home usually develop mild if any signs of kennel cough after exposure to a new dog, however in some cases serious illness may be transmitted. Talk to your veterinarian if you have concerns. RARELY, an immunocompromised person (with AIDS or undergoing cancer chemotherapy) could be infected with *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, one of the bacteria involved in kennel cough. If someone in the family is severely immunocompromised, please discuss kennel cough with your physician.

Kennel cough is manageable in a home. The BEST thing to do for a dog with kennel cough is provide them with a warm, stress-free home. In this environment most dogs will recover within a few weeks.

There are vaccines that either prevent kennel cough or reduce the severity. But giving these vaccines to an animal who is already infected will not help the animal recover any quicker. Sometimes antibiotics are used in treating kennel cough, and may help the dog deal with the disease. These medications can be obtained through your regular veterinarian. Severe, untreated cases of kennel cough can develop into pneumonia. So it is important to discuss kennel cough with your veterinarian.

When should you seek treatment?

We recommend that all newly adopted dogs be seen by a veterinarian within a few days of adoption, for a routine health check.

If any of your dogs develop a hacking cough, discharge from eyes and nose, lethargy or loss of appetite, you should make an appointment with a veterinarian.