

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Introduction:

The Milton Uilladulla Dog Club should be safe and enjoyable for all Members and their Dogs. This Policy reflects that belief. It aims to reduce the risk and spread of canine contagious disease when it does occur, whilst at the same time minimising the impact on competitions, training and other activities. In order to be effective, the Policy relies on Members to take due precautions for the health of their Dogs, and to be honest with reporting and quarantining.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines for Members whose Dogs have contracted a contagious disease or whose Dogs have been in contact with an affected Dog. Therefore in some instances, veterinary clearance will be required before Dogs that have been affected or exposed to contagious disease are able to return to attend the Club.

Canine Contagious disease – An infectious disease that is spread through contact with infected dogs. This can be direct contact or contact with the bodily secretions, or with objects that the infected dogs have contaminated.

Incubation period – The period of time from first contact with a contagious disease and the onset of clinical signs of that disease.

Primary contact – Primary contact with an affected Dog is deemed to have occurred if a Member's Dog is at the same location as a Dog affected with or subsequently diagnosed with contagious disease, whether or not there was direct contact with the affected Dog at any time.

Shedding – This is the process where infective organisms such as viruses and bacteria are released from an animal and may infect another animal. Shedding can occur in secretions such as saliva and nasal secretions, and in urine and faeces. Even when a Dog has fully recovered, it can still be shedding and thus still be contagious to other Dogs.

Responsibilities:

Members must take appropriate health care measures for their own Dogs (as advised by their own veterinarian) and report any occurrences of suspected or confirmed contagious disease in their own dogs. Members should promptly advise incidents of contagious disease

In any case of any contagious disease if there is a cluster of cases or an outbreak that does not appear controlled the Committee of MUODC may advise of a quarantine period or other cancellation of training and/or competitions.

When there is a reported incidence of Kennel Cough, Parvovirus or other contagious disease, all Members will be advised by email or website and/or club newsletter. It is the Owner's responsibility to decide the risk for their own Dog(s) in participating in any activities and to seek advice from their own veterinary surgeon if uncertain. The Committee does not give veterinary advice and will not accept liability for the Owners' decision to participate with their Dog.

The Committee does recommend sensible hygiene practices. Several of the contagious diseases of Dogs do have effective vaccines available and there are also titre tests available that quantify antibody levels in the blood stream. Some diseases can be transmitted by using the same water bowls.

Reporting:

The Committee must be advised as soon as possible (and certainly within 24 hours) from onset of clinical signs of contagious disease. If specific veterinary diagnosis is made subsequently, the Committee should be contacted again with that information.

There are several reasons why reporting is very important:

The Committee can advise Members, and advise the places where the Dog has been, Members may then choose to avoid those places.

Reported cases will raise awareness in Members to be more diligent in observing their own Dogs for signs of illness

For Kennel Cough

Any Dog(s) that have kennel cough are to be quarantined from all Club activities for 14 days from onset of clinical signs e.g. coughing, sneezing. This quarantining is to include all Dogs within the household/under the same roof regardless of whether they have symptoms or not.

There is no blanket quarantine on other Dogs that have been in potential contact/near Dog(s) that have been identified with Kennel Cough. The quarantining is only for Dogs that have been identified as having Kennel Cough and other Dogs within the household.

For Parvovirus

Veterinary clearance is required before any Dog in the affected household is able to return to training.

Dogs with no signs of Parvovirus, but known to have been in primary or secondary contact with a Dog subsequently diagnosed with Parvovirus, must be quarantined for a period of 21 days from the last known contact (direct or indirect) with that Dog.

There is no blanket quarantine on other Dogs that have been in potential contact/near Dog(s) that have been identified with contagious disease (except parvovirus). The quarantining is only for Dogs that have been identified as having contagious disease and other Dogs within the household.

However, because the Policy potentially covers a wide range of diseases that vary significantly in severity and contagiousness, incidences will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

The Committee may seek veterinary advice about a particular disease and may impose further quarantine restrictions and/or undertake any other measures that may be necessary to control the risk of contagious disease.