

6 September 2017

INFECTIOUS COUGH PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT SURVEY

INFORMATION SHEET

Name and contact details of the investigator:

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Background to the research

As part of a Royal Veterinary College PhD project entitled '*Improved diagnosis and epidemiological understanding of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD) in dogs*' funded by a welfare grant, we are investigating factors that may be associated with infectious cough prevalence in kennelled dogs. Canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD), also known as kennel cough or infectious cough, frequently affects dogs housed in shelters or kennels. Clinical signs may include coughing, sneezing, a runny nose, watery eyes and lethargy. The aim of the initial part of our investigation is to gain an improved epidemiological understanding of infectious cough and how it is managed in the kennel environment. This will enable us to identify modifiable risk factors to improve the health and welfare of kennelled dogs.

The Questionnaire (RVC Social Science Ethical Review Board reference: URN SR2017-1056)

I am writing to request your participation in our study. Participation will involve the completion of an online questionnaire relating to infectious cough prevention and management at your establishment. If you are unable to complete the questionnaire in one go, your answers will be saved and you can return to the questionnaire at a later stage. If you are unable to complete the questionnaire online please let us know and we will send you a postal version including a return envelope. With your help, we can meet the aims of our overall investigation to positively impact the health and welfare of kennelled dogs.

Ethical Issues: Your Participation in the Study

All information provided by you will be used for the aims and purposes of this PhD project. The completed online questionnaire is password-protected with only the principal investigators having access to your answers. Any returned postal questionnaires will be stored in a secure and locked location. Original data will be entered and stored electronically and will be password-protected with only the investigators directly involved in the project having access to the password. The name of your organisation will be anonymised when analysing the data to ensure that your organisation will not be identifiable in any publications that may result from our study.

Participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without prejudice. If you are happy to help me with this study, please sign the attached authorisation.

Participant's signature: _____

PARTICIPANT'S CONSENT FORM

Cross-sectional survey of kennel level risk factors associated with canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD)¹ in dogs¹

- I understand the description of this study and agree to take part.
- I am free to ask the principal investigator any question.
- I understand I am free to withdraw from this study without giving a reason.
- This is an anonymous study. Any personal identifiable information will be kept separate from study data and will only be available to the investigators.
- No personal data will be released to any third party unless required to do so by law.
- This study may result in publication and I understand I will not be identified in any publication arising out of this study, unless I wish.
- No personal data from this study will be used in any way other than outlined in the study description.

Name of Participant Date Signature

Ulrike Mauchle (Lead Investigator) Date Signature

Thank you for participating. If you would like any further information about the study or its results, please feel free to contact the researcher: Ulrike Mauchle, umauchle7@rvc.ac.uk

¹ RVC Social Science Ethical Review Board reference number: URN SR2017-1056