

Pneumonia

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Overview

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs and the bronchi, usually related to a bacterial infection. The route of infection is typically inhalation but sometimes the bacteria can be spread by the blood stream from an infection in other parts of the body.

Pneumonia can occur in dogs and cats, but is more common in dogs. Sporting dogs, hounds, working dogs and mixed breed dogs over 25 pounds may be predisposed. Most affected pets are under one year of age but pets of any age can be affected.

Diagnosis and Treatment Notes:

- Pneumonia is generally diagnosed by physical exam findings, particularly through listening to the chest, and chest x-rays. Blood work can help support the diagnosis. Cultures of exudates may also be taken to help determine the underlying cause and the best treatment.
- Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, your individual pet, and your veterinarian. The majority of dogs with pneumonia are treated with fluids and antibiotics. Bronchodilators and humidified oxygen may be administered. Discuss treatment details when your pet is diagnosed with this condition.

What to Watch for*:

- Coughing, often productive
- Nasal discharge
- Shortness of breath
- Difficult breathing
- Anorexia
- Fatigue

** Please notify us if you notice any of the above signs or if you have any questions!*