## Bordeletellosis

**Animal Group(s) Affected** | **Transmission** | **Clinical Signs** | **Severity** | **Treatment** | **Prevention and Control** | **Zoonotic**
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Dogs | Aerosol; oronasal | Paroxysmal coughing | Mild to severe | Antibiotics, supportive care | Quarantine affected animals | Only in immune-compromised people
Cats | Aerosol; oronasal | Sneezing, pyrexia, nasal discharge, occasional cough | | | | 
Birds (turkeys) | Contaminated water; direct contact | Sinusitis with clear nasal discharge, foamy eyes, characteristic snick or cough | | | | 
Swine (domestic) | Direct contact, aerosol | Nonprogressive atrophic rhinitis (as sole pathogen), pneumonia | | | | 
Rodents | Direct contact, Aerosol | Nasal discharge, sneezing, snuffling, rales, dyspnea | | | | 
Rabbits | Direct contact, aerosol | Snuffing, pneumonia | | | | 
Horses | Direct contact, aerosol | Nasal discharge, pneumonia | | | | 
Seals | Direct contact? | Tracheitis, pneumonia | | | | 
Humans (rarely non-human primates) | Direct contact, aerosol | Paroxysmal cough, runny nose, sneezing, pyrexia | | | |
### BORDETELLOSIS

**Sheet completed on:** 30 April 2011; updated 5 August 2013  
**Fact Sheet Reviewed by:** Claude Lacasse; Karen Register

**Susceptible animal groups:** Reported in canids, felids, ursids, suids, lagomorphs, rodentia, aves, primates (human and non-human), insectivores, mustelids, ovids, pinnipeds, equids, and koalas

**Causative organism:**  
- *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (most animal cases, rare human cases)  
- *Bordetella pertussis* (humans, non-human primates)  
- *Bordetella parapertussis* (humans, ovids)  
- *Bordetella avium* (birds)  
- *Bordetella hinzii* (birds, rodents, rabbits and rare human cases)

**Zoonotic potential:** *B. bronchiseptica, B. hinzii* -- usually reported in immuno-compromised people

**Distribution:** Worldwide

**Incubation period:** 3-14 days

**Clinical signs:** Disease may be present in asymptomatic carriers. Paroxysmal cough is most notable sign in dogs and humans and sneezing, oculonasal discharge, rhinitis, pyrexia, or pneumonia may be developed. Sudden death may occur.

**Post mortem, gross, or histologic findings:** Bronchopneumonia, suppurative bronchitis, tracheitis, mucopurulent rhinitis. The disease rarely causes mortality in animals unless concurrent infection with virus or other bacterial component.

**Diagnosis:** Bacterial culture, PCR

**Material required for laboratory analysis:** Oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal culture swab

**Relevant diagnostic laboratories:** Any diagnostic lab with capability to perform bacterial culture

**Treatment:** If the sole infectious agent, the disease may be self-limiting. However, antibiotics decrease course of shedding. Supportive care (antitussives, humidification, expectorants, etc.) can be applied.

**Prevention and control:** Isolation of any suspected upper respiratory infection animals during active disease. Adequate ventilation and air exchanges (12-20/hr) within holding areas. Vaccination of susceptible species can be utilized.

**Suggested disinfectant for housing facilities:** Thorough cleaning and disinfection -- most cleansers are effective against *Bordetella* spp., sodium hypochlorite, chlorhexidine or benzalkonium solution

**Notification:** Pertussis is reportable in some states

**Measures required under the Animal Disease Surveillance Plan:** None currently

**Measures required for introducing animals to infected animal:** Infected animals should be quarantined for 2-6 weeks until clinical signs resolve

**Conditions for restoring disease-free status after an outbreak:** Clean and decontaminate environment

**Experts who may be consulted**

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**References**


