



# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CITY TO CLOSE DOG PARK IN WAKE OF CANINE COUGH**

ROCKPORT, TX – After reports of a canine cough at numerous, area veterinary clinics, the City of Rockport is closing the dog park in Memorial Park as a preventative measure. While contagious, this cough is easily treated and should not be confused with the canine influenza cases that have broken out in different parts of the country.

“This is not Bordetella, nor is it a life-threatening situation for residents’ dogs,” noted City Manager Kevin Carruth. “As it is contagious to other dogs and can be spread through the air, despite vaccinations, we’re taking the precaution of closing the dog park,” he noted.

The first cases were reported earlier this week. Samples from Salty Dog Grooming and Rockport Veterinary Clinic were sent to the Texas A&M Veterinary School, where they found no instances of parvo, corona, distemper, influenza, Bordetella, herpes and other virus strains.

According to Ronell Burke, Lead Animal Control Officer with Aransas County Animal Control, if your dog is coughing, please check with your veterinary clinic for treatment. It usually requires treatment with antibiotics and specialized medicine, running its course within three to five days.

Horizon Veterinary Clinic has voluntarily quarantined the clinic as a precautionary measure and will not be seeing canine patients. Other patients are welcome as humans and cats are not affected by this strain.

Companion Animal Hospital notes that dogs may not exhibit any other symptoms, like fever, lethargy or trouble eating.