

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is similar to a common cold in us humans. It can be viral and/or bacterial and varies in severity of symptoms. It can be a minor cough that lasts a couple of days or longer and may require veterinary treatment..

Kennel cough or infectious bronchitis is highly infectious and is spread via airborne fluid droplets released when coughing or sneezing. This is why it's so easy to be picked up via shared sniffing spots or in areas with groups of dogs. This is why daycares and kennels often require dogs to be vaccinated against kennel cough before their stays. There can be up to 14 days in the incubation period between when the pet was exposed and when they start to show signs.

How to be protected against Kennel cough?

Similarly to human flu vaccines, the kennel cough vaccines cover the most common strains and will reduce likelihood or severity of contraction and symptoms.

Clinical signs:

The signs of kennel cough may vary from mild to severe. Signs may include any of the following:

- Coughing
- Retching
- Reduced endurance on walks
- lethargy
- Occasional mucus production
- Increased respiratory rate

Diagnosis:

Kennel cough is diagnosed after a physical exam, where your veterinarian will observe your dog and often perform a tracheal pinch. This is due to the reaction of prodding the irritated trachea that should be present with a cough. If it's not present something else may be going on.

In severe cases swabs can be taken to see which bacteria are causing the problem.



Images courtesy of Google images



Treatment – ☐ Time ☐ Antibiotics ☐ Anti-inflammatories ☐ Preventative care of vaccines

Kennel cough often clears up on its own if given time, but it is advised to seek veterinary advice as soon as possible.



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