

KENNEL COUGH IN DOGS

Understanding Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection that affects dogs of all ages. While many dogs recover with supportive care, some can develop more serious illness, particularly puppies, elderly dogs, and those with underlying health conditions.

Vaccination and early veterinary care help protect your dog and reduce the spread of infection.

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YOUR DOG.



1 WHAT IS KENNEL COUGH?

Kennel Cough is an infectious disease affecting the respiratory tract.

Common causes include:

- ✓ Bordetella bronchiseptica
- ✓ Canine Parainfluenza Virus
- ✓ Canine Adenovirus
- ✓ Other respiratory viruses and bacteria

Several organisms often work together to cause disease.



2 DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Dogs can spread Kennel Cough before obvious signs develop.
- ✓ The infection spreads quickly anywhere dogs gather together.
- ✓ Even vaccinated dogs can occasionally develop mild disease, although illness is usually less severe.



2 HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Kennel Cough spreads through:

- ✓ Coughing and sneezing
- ✓ Direct dog-to-dog contact
- ✓ Shared water bowls
- ✓ Shared toys
- ✓ Boarding kennels
- ✓ Grooming facilities
- ✓ Dog parks
- ✓ Training classes

The organisms can spread rapidly in places where dogs mix.



1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- ✓ Harsh, dry hacking cough
- ✓ Honking cough
- ✓ Retching or gagging
- ✓ Sneezing
- ✓ Nasal discharge
- ✓ Mild lethargy
- ✓ Reduced appetite
- ✓ Mild fever



*Many dogs remain bright and active despite coughing.
Contact your veterinarian if coughing worsens or your dog appears unwell.*

3 WHICH DOGS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Higher-risk dogs include:

- ✓ Puppies
- ✓ Elderly dogs
- ✓ Boarding dogs
- ✓ Show dogs
- ✓ Working dogs
- ✓ Dogs attending daycare
- ✓ Dogs with heart or respiratory disease



Any dog exposed to infected dogs can become infected.

4 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- ✓ Perform a physical examination
- ✓ Listen to your dog's chest
- ✓ Review recent exposure history
- ✓ Assess cough characteristics
- ✓ Recommend radiographs if pneumonia is suspected
- ✓ Perform additional testing in severe cases



Diagnosis is often based on clinical signs and recent exposure.

5 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment may include:

- ✓ Rest
- ✓ Anti-inflammatory medication
- ✓ Cough suppressants (when appropriate)
- ✓ Antibiotics for bacterial infections
- ✓ Hospitalisation in severe cases
- ✓ Treatment of secondary pneumonia

Most uncomplicated cases improve within 1-3 weeks.



6 HOME CARE

To help your dog recover:

- ✓ Provide plenty of rest
- ✓ Avoid strenuous exercise
- ✓ Use a harness instead of a collar
- ✓ Encourage food and water intake
- ✓ Keep your dog away from other dogs
- ✓ Follow medication instructions carefully

Isolation helps prevent spreading infection.



7 CAN KENNEL COUGH BE PREVENTED?

Prevention includes:

- ✓ Vaccination
- ✓ Avoiding contact with sick dogs
- ✓ Good hygiene practices
- ✓ Appropriate ventilation in kennels
- ✓ Routine veterinary health checks
- ✓ Prompt treatment of respiratory disease

Vaccination remains the best protection.



★ ADDITIONAL TIPS

- ✓ Kennel Cough is highly contagious
- ✓ Most dogs recover well
- ✓ Puppies and older dogs may become more seriously ill
- ✓ Vaccination helps reduce disease severity



♥ EVERY DOG COUNTS

Contact your veterinarian if your dog develops a persistent cough, breathing difficulties, lethargy, or loss of appetite.

Early assessment helps protect your dog and prevent the spread of infection to others.



WHEN TO SEEK IMMEDIATE VETERINARY CARE

Seek urgent care if your dog has:

- ➕ Difficulty breathing
- ➕ Persistent vomiting
- ➕ High fever
- ➕ Extreme lethargy
- ➕ Blue or pale gums

