



Kennel Cough

What is kennel cough?

Kennel cough is a common respiratory tract infection of dogs, causing a dry hacking cough, retching, nasal discharge, sneezing or gagging. Severity of symptoms can vary, and they may persist for several weeks. Puppies, older dogs, and those with existing medical conditions may be more seriously affected. Kennel cough is caused by a group of pathogens, including the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and viruses such as canine parainfluenza virus.

Is my dog at risk?

Kennel cough passes very easily between dogs, not only in kennels but in any situation where close contact occurs. It can be picked up at any time of year.

Can it be treated?

If you think your dog may have kennel cough, it is best to contact us for advice. Mild cases of kennel cough may not require treatment, however more severe or persistent cases are often treated with anti-inflammatories and/or antibiotics. Please let our receptionists know that you are worried your dog may have kennel cough, as your dog may have to wait outside until the vet is free so as to minimise spread to other animals.

Can it be prevented?

Current vaccines cannot completely prevent kennel cough infection from occurring, however they do significantly reduce the severity and length of disease. Standard dog vaccination protocols include a vaccine against only canine parainfluenza virus.

We recommend annual kennel cough vaccination, which provides protection against *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and canine parainfluenza virus and also reduces shedding of infection. This can be given in conjunction with your pet's annual vaccination, or added at any time. The vaccine is administered in the nose so is quick and painless, and starts to work within 3 days. Please contact reception or speak to one of our vets for more information.