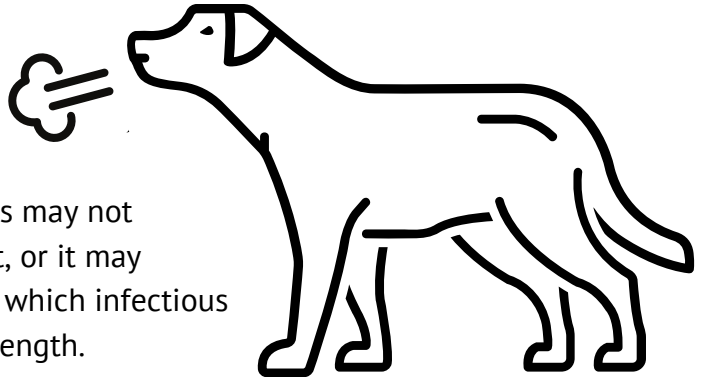


Kennel Cough

WHAT IS KENNEL COUGH?

Kennel cough, also called canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD) or infectious tracheobronchitis, is an infectious bronchitis of dogs characterized by a harsh, hacking cough that most people describe as sounding like "something stuck in my dog's throat." This bronchitis may not last long and be mild enough to not need any treatment, or it may progress to a life-threatening pneumonia depending on which infectious agents are involved and the patient's immunological strength.



An uncomplicated kennel cough runs a course of a week or two and entails frequent fits of coughing in a patient who otherwise feels active and normal. Uncomplicated cases do not involve fever or listlessness, just lots of coughing.

The cough can be dry or productive, meaning it is followed by a gag, swallowing motion and the production of foamy mucus (not to be confused with vomiting).

HOW IT OCCURS

An infected dog sheds the bacteria and/or virus in respiratory secretions. These secretions become aerosolized and float in the air where they can be inhaled by a healthy dog. Crowded housing and suboptimal ventilation play important roles in the likelihood of transmission, but organisms may also be transmitted on toys, food bowls or other objects.



HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

You must call and make an appointment with your vet to get your new family member examined by your veterinarian

TREATMENT

An uncomplicated case of kennel cough will go away by itself. Veterinarian prescribed cough suppressants can improve patient comfort while the infection is resolving. The dog should be clearly improved. If not recovered in one to two weeks, veterinarian prescribed antibiotics are frequently given to patients to prevent pneumonia before it warrants hospitalization.

THE INCUBATION PERIOD FOR KENNEL COUGH IS 2-14 DAYS. DOGS ARE TYPICALLY SICK FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS. INFECTED DOGS SHED BORDETELLA ORGANISMS FOR 1-3 MONTHS FOLLOWING INFECTION.

This information is strictly for educational purposes only. If your dog is experiencing symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.



PREVENTION

Kennel cough can be prevented through nasal, oral or injectable vaccination.



WHAT IF MY DOG'S COUGH DOESN'T IMPROVE?

If your dog's kennel cough does not resolve, they could be dealing with an underlying condition. Please contact your veterinarian.

CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN

Questions for your veterinarian:

