



Kennel cough is a term loosely used to describe both viral and bacteria infections that cause inflammation of the dog's voice box and windpipe. It is a form of bronchitis similar to a chest cold in humans. It is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** to other dogs!



How does a dog get it?

It can spread from dog-to-dog contact, through contaminated objects, and through aerosols in the air, especially in enclosed areas with poor air circulation. Kennel cough is so contagious that your pet might catch it from briefly greeting another dog or sharing a water dish at the dog park.

Who is at risk?

ALL DOGS are at risk. Risk is substantially increased with puppies, elderly dogs, and unvaccinated dogs. Places of high dog abundance such as dog parks, dog daycares, boarding facilities, and groomers may have increased cases of kennel cough as they experience a high volume of dogs.

What are the symptoms?

A persistent dry cough with a "honking" sound is the main clue the dog has kennel cough. In most cases the dog will appear healthy with a good appetite and activity level. Do not be alarmed if your dog gags or coughs up white, foamy phlegm - these signs are often worse after exercise, excitement, or pulling on a leash. In rare cases, the dog can develop a fever and nasal discharge. Serious cases of kennel cough can lead to pneumonia if left untreated.



How do you treat/prevent it?

If your dog develops a cough contact your veterinarian. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of your dog catching kennel cough:

1. Keep vaccinations up-to-date: bordetella, parainfluenza, and adenovirus type 2 all aid in reducing the risk of catching kennel cough. Keep in mind that updating the vaccines while your dog has kennel cough will not be useful and getting the vaccine does not always prevent kennel cough but will help your dog recover much faster.
2. Dogs with kennel cough should be completely isolated from all other dogs.
3. A humidifier or vaporizer can provide some relief. You can also keep your dog in the bathroom with you while you shower. Giving your dog some honey will help sooth an irritated throat.
4. Avoid exposure to smoke and other noxious, irritating fumes.
5. Completely finish the full course of any medication prescribed.
6. Make sure your dog is eating, drinking, and in a stress-free environment. Refrain from exercising your pup.

In most cases the signs of kennel cough gradually decrease and disappear after 3 weeks. Puppies, elderly dogs, and immune-compromised animals may take 6 weeks or more to recover. Your dog may remain infectious even after symptoms have cleared up. You should see improvement within 1 week of treatment. If your dog has nasal discharge, is breathing rapidly, refuses to eat, is lethargic, seek vet assistance immediately.