



What You Need To Know About Canine Cough/Kennel Cough

1. Kennel Cough is one of the most common infectious diseases of dogs - **just like the common cold with humans**. It is a contagious respiratory disease that is **spread between dogs just as easily as colds are between humans**.
2. Commonly referred to as 'Kennel Cough'... **Canine Cough can, however, infect dogs anywhere that dogs gather** - such as at parks, beaches, obedience classes, dog shows, grooming parlours, over the back fence, day care centers or at kennels. **It can be spread via the air, from nose to nose contact, or contact with an infected item – for example, a favourite tennis ball!**
3. **Canine Cough can be caused by a number of different viruses and bacteria making it difficult to control or prevent even by vaccination. Some dogs can carry the infection for weeks without showing any signs of illness. These “carrier” dogs act as a source of infection for other dogs.**

A good example of how canine cough can relate to people is a children's daycare. Often children can contract a cold, the flu or other issues simply from being around many other children.

4. **A dog may be vaccinated and still contract canine cough. No vaccine is 100% effective.** However symptoms are often milder in vaccinated dogs.
 5. **Symptoms are usually mild and can include:**
 - Persistent, sometimes hacking cough
 - Most dogs stay active, and show no other symptoms besides coughing
 - Occasional lethargy/not eating
 - Watery nasal discharge
 - Use your discretion, but often dogs with kennel cough do not need to see the vet
- ** IF YOUR DOG IS EXPERIENCING THESE SYMPTOMS, PLEASE DO NOT BOARD THEM OR HAVE THEM AROUND OTHER DOGS!****
6. Ensure your dog's vaccinations including their 'kennel cough' vaccination are up-to date. We implement a strict vaccine policy in order to protect the health of our guests. If vaccines are expired, we cannot provide boarding or daycare. **It is the responsibility of the owner and not TWI to maintain up to date vaccinations.**
 7. We do our best to prevent canine cough through rigorous cleaning and disinfectant protocols. However, as discussed above it is impossible to completely prevent it from occurring. We appreciate your understanding ☺