

What You Need To Know About Infectious Tracheobronchitis (Kennel Cough)

What is Kennel Cough?

Infectious Tracheobronchitis is commonly known as 'kennel cough'. Just like the human cold and flu there may be many different viruses that can cause 'kennel cough'. 'Kennel cough' is a canine respiratory infection that can be caused by various strains of the disease. When they inhale bacteria or virus particles into their respiratory tract, these pathogens will affect the lining of the respiratory tract causing respiratory signs.

Where can kennel cough be picked up?

Dogs can pick up 'kennel cough' anywhere they go. This can include kennels, dog parks, veterinary clinics, pet stores, grooming salons, doggy neighbors and even just out on walks. Any place dogs go they can contract 'kennel cough'. Environments such as this are at higher risk as we have many dogs passing through. Just as with humans, we can have dogs that pass through without showing symptoms themselves but they can infect others.

What are we doing to help prevent spread?

We do our best to prevent the spread by having vaccinated dogs in our care, cleaning procedures and isolating potential sick dogs. If we are worried your pup might be showing symptoms we will contact you and separate them from the other pups. We will always try to be on the cautious side if we are worried they are showing any symptoms.

*** There is always a risk in any environment where dogs congregate and it would be impossible to never see an infected dog despite our best efforts***

How can you help?

Vaccination is the best way to help. Just like our flu shots the vaccination is not always 100% as it only covers some strains. The vaccine still provides better protection than no vaccine so we like all our dog guests to be vaccinated against it. Keep your pup home if they are displaying any out of the ordinary symptoms. Symptoms can vary from mild to severe and can include but are not limited to:

- Coughing (honking or mild)
- Runny nose
- Sneezing (Reverse sneezing)
- Spitting up (usually due to coughing)
- Lethargy

Often in normal healthy adult dogs the symptoms will be mild. Just like with people it is often harder on young/older or those with compromised immune systems. Some breeds such as the brachycephalic breeds are at higher risk for more severe symptoms.

In conclusion

'Kennel cough' is not always preventable, but there are steps we can take together to reduce your dog's risk of developing this condition. If you are concerned about your pup showing symptoms please keep them home to help prevent the spread. Your pup should be isolated at home for at least 14 days and not have any contact with other pups even out on walks. For most pups the 'kennel cough' should run its course, it's just like a cold for us. If your pup is lethargic, not eating/drinking or coughing a lot they may need to see their Veterinarian for treatment.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Companions Pet Resort Team