

Protecting your dog from canine cough

Several types of vaccines are available to help protect your dog from canine cough. Your veterinarian will determine which is the most suitable for your dog's individual situation. Regardless of which type of vaccine is administered, regular re-vaccination is required to ensure your dog remains protected. Your veterinarian will advise you of the correct interval between vaccinations.

Check your dog's vaccination status well ahead of time prior to exposure to high-risk situations. If it has lapsed you will need to have another series of vaccinations for your pet to be protected again.

Depending on which vaccination type your vet has selected you may need to allow a period of up to a month to complete the restarted course. This allows the immune system to be best prepared to protect against disease should infection occur.



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Protect your dog from **Canine Cough**

> Their health and wellbeing depends on you.



Canine Cough... be a mate. Vaccinate.

What is canine cough?

Canine cough is a common, contagious, infectious upper respiratory disease.

Canine cough may also be referred to as kennel cough or canine infectious tracheobronchitis.

Your dog may show varying signs of illness, which could include:

- Loud, high pitched cough, often described as a “goose honk”
- Loss of appetite
- Lack of energy
- Retching or hacking
- Nasal discharge

Disturbing bouts of coughing can last for several weeks and may be exacerbated by exercise.

Veterinary treatment may be required to alleviate these distressing symptoms.

What causes canine cough?

Canine cough is a multifactorial disease. A number of viruses and bacteria as well as environmental factors such as stress, dust and humidity can be involved.

The most common infectious agents identified are:

- *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (a bacteria)
- Canine parainfluenza virus
- Canine adenovirus type 2

However, other pathogens may also be involved including *Mycoplasma*, *Streptococcus* and canine respiratory coronavirus.

Bordetella bronchiseptica is regarded as the principal causative agent. It is closely related to *Bordetella pertussis*, the cause of whooping cough in people¹.

How is canine cough transmitted?

Dogs tend to be exposed in places such as boarding kennels, training classes, doggie daycare, dog shows, pet shops, parks and beaches or in any other situation where dogs socialise.

Dog to dog contact through sniffing, sneezing, coughing and sharing water bowls are important means of disease transmission. Discharges from an infected dog spread disease-causing organisms into the environment. These may readily infect other dogs.

Time from exposure to onset of clinical signs can be between 3-10 days. Infected dogs can remain contagious and continue to spread infectious organisms for extended periods of time after recovery from the infection².

Which dogs are at risk of exposure?

Any puppy or adult dog that socialises with other dogs may be at risk of contracting canine cough. Your dog may be at increased risk of developing clinical disease if he/she is unvaccinated or is late for their booster shot.



References:

1. Ford RB. 2004. Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis (Kennel Cough). North East Veterinary Conference Proceedings
2. Datz, C. 1998. Bordetella Infections in Dogs and Cats: Treatment and Prevention. Compendium Vol. 25. No. 12 pp 902 – 913.