

What is Kennel Cough?

Kennel cough is a fairly common ailment in dogs. Your dog could contract kennel cough anywhere they come into contact with other dogs; such as, the groom shop, boarding kennel, the veterinarian's office, in dog obedience class, at a dog show or any other dog related event. Any time your dog is in the vicinity of an infected dog, the risk is increased for infection. Kennel cough is caused by an airborne virus, which is highly contagious. The incubation period is about 7-10 days. That means your dog may not show symptoms for 7-10 days following exposure to the virus.

How do I prevent my dog from getting Kennel Cough?

Vaccinating your dog with the Bordetella vaccine can help reduce their risk. Your dog can still contract the Kennel Cough virus even if he or she has been vaccinated. There are many strains of the virus and the vaccine given to your dog may or may not be the right one for the strain with which your dog comes in contact with. This is similar to the "flu shot" for us; each year a vaccine is developed based on which strain(s) are suspected to be most prevalent. Simply put, having the flu shot does not guarantee you won't get the flu and when your dog has a Bordetella vaccination it doesn't guarantee he or she won't get kennel cough. A strong immune system is best defense against viruses. This is why several dogs could be exposed to the kennel cough virus but only one may actually contract it. Always discuss health concerns with your pet's veterinarian and they will guide you if you feel your dog needs additional protection.

How do I know my dog has Kennel Cough?

The most common symptom of Kennel Cough is a cough; it may sound like there is something caught in the dog's throat, a hacking sound. If the dog does have kennel cough and you press on the throat gently, right in the front collar area this may trigger some coughing. They may also cough on a leash when walking or when they get excited. Other symptoms you may see are sneezing, runny or watery eyes & lethargy. Most dogs with kennel cough will act normal except for the cough and will have a normal appetite. It is also important to note that the Bordetella vaccine can cause sneezing and coughing for several days but follow up with your vet if it continues.

What do I do if my dog gets Kennel Cough?

Kennel cough generally will be gone in seven to ten days. In some cases an antibiotic is prescribed. As with any illness you should contact your veterinarian to determine if you should take your pup for treatment, especially if you see loss of appetite, lethargy or sudden change in daily habits. It is always a good idea to let anyone know who was in contact with your dog (kennels, groomers & family members) so they can watch for symptoms and take precautions.

What does "Country Club Kennels" do to reduce the risk of Kennel Cough?

Before admittance into our facility we require all dogs provide proof of vaccinations, including a yearly Bordetella vaccine. If we observe a dog presenting Kennel Cough symptoms, they are isolated immediately to prevent further exposure to other dogs & the owner is contacted. Unfortunately, due to the incubation period (7-10 days), dogs

may come and go before ever showing symptoms, exposing other dogs to the virus. Our runs are sanitized every morning; kennel floor area is mopped with diluted bleach cleaner 2 times in the morning, 2 times in the evening and as needed throughout the day. We have a strict cleaning regimen at our facility before, during and after dogs are boarded.

Country Club Kennels continues to upgrade:

We are also installing an air purifier system that circulates the air and kills viruses such as Bordetella. We expect this to be up and running by end February 2016.

Unfortunately, Kennel Cough is one of the risks of dog socialization as much as colds and flu viruses are part of our public outings but we do all we can to stay ahead of any cross contamination in our kennel.