



What is Kennel Cough?

Canine infectious tracheobronchitis (kennel cough) is one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in dogs. Fortunately, the majority of cases are not serious, resolving on their own in 1 to 2 weeks. The main cause of kennel cough is the airborne bacteria, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and as a result is most easily spread in situations where dogs congregate (Kennels, daycare, vet waiting rooms, grooming parlours). Very young, very old, or chronically unwell dogs are more likely to need some veterinary intervention.

What are the Symptoms?

Dogs with Kennel Cough tend to develop a dry cough – It sounds as if the dog needs to "**clear its throat**" and the cough will be triggered by any extra activity, drinking water, exposed to change of temperature or exercise. The dog will usually be fine otherwise, although he/she may have a little less appetite, or just have a little less bounce than normal.

How does Wags'n'Woofs limit the risk of Kennel Cough?

All dogs that come to Wags'n'Woofs must have up to date Kennel Cough vaccinations, however this is not a complete safeguard against the disease. The length and level of protection conferred on an individual dog by vaccination is variable. The most common causes (*Bordetella* and parainfluenza) are included in the vaccine, but there are also some potential causes which the manufacturers have not yet included. This means that dog care services will inevitably have to deal with the cough doing the rounds from time to time. When Kennel Cough occurs in a vaccinated dog, it tends to be significantly milder than it would be in an unvaccinated dog. so even if it is not a foolproof prevention, it is certainly worth our while getting our dogs vaccinated!

Wags'n'Woofs has strict policies and procedures concerning all aspects of health and safety, in particular with Kennel Cough

- Dogs showing any signs of coughing or sneezing are immediately isolated and the owner notified.
- In the event of any outbreak all owners are asked health questions on entry, and any dogs showing any signs are advised not to participate in walks or adventure days.
- Wags'n'Woofs uses specialist cleaning products that eradicate all known canine diseases - all surfaces and equipment are cleaned immediately once / twice daily as required, including vehicles used for transport
- The benefit of being in fresh air throughout the day reduces the level of airborne matter
- Double Vaccination – for dogs having their first kennel cough vaccination it is suggested that a booster is received one month after the first vaccination. Your dog can attend during the 1 month period

What if my dog has Kennel Cough?

Often the cases are mild and resolve within a couple of days. We will ask any dogs that start to cough or show signs not to attend group trips and visit their vet. Whilst most dogs will recover on their own, a course of antibiotics is sometimes recommended to speed up recovery.

Then it is best to let your loved one rest at home, avoid over excitement and where possible reduce the time wearing a collar as this puts pressure on the inflamed throat.

When can my dog return to Wags'n'Woofs?

Once he / she has been clear of any signs of coughing for 2 –3 days or with vet clearance. We have been advised that most dogs that have had kennel cough once, have a reduced likelihood of getting it again, and with our own precautions we hope it will either be avoided or certainly risk vastly reduced.

Feel free to give us a call if you have any other questions