

Kennel Cough Information

Kennel cough is a fairly common ailment in dogs. It is the canine equivalent to the common cold or flu in humans. People tend to associate it with dogs who either are being or have recently been boarded, or “kenned”. Your dog does not need to be boarded to catch kennel cough.

Kennel cough is caused by an airborne virus, which is highly contagious. Just as people often contract the common cold or flu through exposure in public spaces, dogs often contract kennel cough by being exposed at daycare, boarding facilities, the dog park, and even passing other dogs outside of your home--wherever other dogs can be found.

Any time your dog is in the vicinity of an infected dog, the potential for infection exists. The incubation period is between 7 and 10 days, meaning that your dog may not display symptoms of illness for about 7 to 10 days following exposure. A dog can carry and spread kennel cough to others, without displaying symptoms. Having a strong immune system is the best way to avoid coming down with symptoms if and/or when your dog is exposed to the virus. This is why not every dog in the kennel, or house, will get it if there is an outbreak.

We do all we can at Remi's K9 Academy & Pet Resort to keep your dog from getting kennel cough. We require that all dogs be vaccinated with the vaccine known as “Bordetella”. We do not allow guests who are known to have kennel cough symptoms to be in the facility until cleared by a veterinarian.

As is the case with the human cold or flu, we cannot get rid of kennel cough all together. The vaccine is approximately 66% effective. It is similar to the human flu shot; each year a vaccine is developed based on which strain(s) are suspected to be the most prevalent, but there are many other strains of the virus out there that your dog can catch. Be aware that your dog can still catch kennel cough, even if they have been vaccinated for it. We want you to be aware that, despite all that we do here at Remi's K9 Academy & Pet Resort, kennel cough is a very common illness.

Kennel cough causes a persistent, nonproductive cough that may sound as if something is caught in your dog's throat and they are gagging or trying to clear their throat. Others describe it as a deep “honking” cough. Exercise and/or getting excited can make symptoms worse. Sometimes the coughing can seem very violent, and may go on for minutes at a time.

If your dog(s) displays symptoms of kennel cough while attending daycare, boarding or grooming we will isolate your dog to keep all other dogs safe and healthy, and we will ask you to pick the dog(s) as soon as possible. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience, but we are dedicated to keeping Remi's K9 Academy & Pet Resort the safest place it can possibly be.

If your dog(s) develop kennel cough symptoms, do not panic! We recommend that you get your dog(s) to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Owner's Signature

Date