

LADYSHORE GRANGE KENNEL COUGH GUIDANCE

What you need to know:

You should always take advice from your vet with regards to any medical concerns or issues when boarding your dogs at the kennels.

A vaccine is available for kennel cough which covers the most common causes (bordatella and parainfluenza). It is a live vaccine — i.e. it works by causing a very mild infection to stimulate the body's immunity.

Although the kennel cough vaccination does not cover every cause of the infection and is not always 100% effective, it will significantly reduce the chance of illness. Therefore, we recommend but do not insist on your dog having the KC vaccine. However, unless the KC vaccine is given as part of the dog's annual boosters, any dog coming into the kennels will not be able to stay unless the vaccine is given at least 3 weeks prior to arrival.

Further Information:

Since the Kennel Cough bacteria can be present anywhere and can travel for considerable distances through the air, it can affect any dog... even one which never leaves its own back garden. However, kennel cough is more likely to occur when the concentration of dogs is greater, such as at a dog show, kennel, vets and other places dogs go e.g. pet shops. Dogs can also be exposed while running loose or while being walked near other dogs or playing in the park. In short, it is possible for kennel cough (canine bronchitis) to be passed on anywhere that dogs congregate.

Kennels with a rapid turnover of guests can be particularly susceptible and this is because, in a kennel, a dog encounters two conditions that do not exist at home which are the proximity to several potentially contagious dogs and the excitement of a less familiar environment, which can result in lowered resistance to disease. These same factors explain why children are more likely to catch the flu in school, rather than at home.

No amount of supervision, sanitation, or personalised care can prevent a dog from "catching" an airborne disease. All that we can do is to recommend immunisation against Kennel Cough. Please ask your vet for details of the vaccination, it will have to be administered at least 3 weeks before boarding and then lasts for a year so is easy to get when your dog has its annual booster.

We also refuse to take in any obviously sick dogs or any dogs that are clearly coughing. The above is for the comfort and safety of all our boarders, where a risk of cross-infection may exist.

Please ask for further advice

