

## Things You Should Know About Canine Cough

What is “Canine Cough”?

Infectious tracheobronchitis is a highly contagious, upper respiratory disease, which is spread by an air-borne virus. The incubation period of the disease is roughly 3-7 days. The main symptom is a hacking cough, sometimes accompanied by sneezing and nasal discharge, which can last anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Although this coughing is very annoying, it does not usually develop into anything more serious. However, just as with the common cold, it can lower the dog’s resistance to other disease making him susceptible to secondary infections, and so he must be observed closely to avoid complications.

Can my dog be vaccinated to protect him against tracheobronchitis?

Yes! Vaccines against parainfluenza and adenovirus type 2 (in combination with other vaccines) are routinely used as part of an adult dog’s yearly check up. Tracheobronchitis is a required vaccination for dogs using our facility.

If my dog is vaccinated, does that mean he cannot contract Canine Cough?

No. Just as the human “flu” shot does not protect against all strains of the flu, the tracheobronchitis vaccine does not protect against all strains of tracheobronchitis. There are over 100 different strains of the virus. The vaccine is an important step in the preventive health care management of your pet.

Can’t the Animal Walk prevent my dog from catching tracheobronchitis?

Unfortunately, no amount of supervision, sanitation, or personalized care can prevent a dog from “catching” an airborne virus. All a good boarding kennel can do is to require immunization against tracheobronchitis, refuse to board any obviously sick dog, listen and watch for any signs of sickness, and make sure that any dog requiring veterinary attention receives it as quickly as possible. Strangely, the dog with parainfluenza alone may not appear ill, yet is contagious.

How is Canine Cough cured?

Just as in the case of the common cold, tracheobronchitis is not “cured” but must run its course. Many times antibiotics are prescribed to prevent secondary infection. Sometimes cough suppressants are prescribed to reduce excessive coughing, but these medications do not attack the disease itself.