

Kennel cough: the UK's most widespread infectious disease of dogs



Persistent, unpleasant – and really easy to catch

Kennel cough is a dry, retching, 'honking' cough that affects dogs of all ages.

It can last for weeks, and is very hard to treat effectively.

No one who hears a dog with kennel cough will ever forget the experience.

And yet, last year, an estimated 40,000 cases were seen by vets in the UK alone¹.



What is kennel cough and what can it do?

Kennel cough – also known as infectious tracheobronchitis – is a complex, highly infectious respiratory disease which circulates in the dog population all year round. Although a range of bugs can be involved, the two most likely triggers are both common and widespread: a bacterium called *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and canine parainfluenza virus.

Once exposed to infection, it takes 3-10 days before the disease is seen – usually a persistent honking cough and fever. More rarely, serious cases can result in pneumonia and even death, particularly in puppies or those with a weaker constitution.

Depending on the severity of the disease, it can last from a few days to several weeks. But even after the coughing has stopped, your dog can remain infectious for three months or more.



To see more videos like these, search YouTube for 'Kennel cough'

Is your dog at risk?

Every dog is at risk, however healthy. Comprehensive protection against the most important causes is not normally included in routine annual vaccinations and any infected dog can pass the disease on.

Despite the name, a recent survey suggests that less than half of outbreaks arose in kennels². Your pet is at least as likely to encounter the disease in common circumstances such as:

- The park
- The street
- At dog shows
- In training classes
- From next door's pet

...any place, in other words, where dogs meet.

*A recent survey
majority of cases
other t*



What's the treatment?

Since kennel cough is caused by both bacteria and viruses, antibiotics can sometimes help reduce disease duration but often have little impact on symptoms .

Other therapies such as anti-inflammatory drugs and cough suppressants are often only minimally effective and should only be used under veterinary advice.

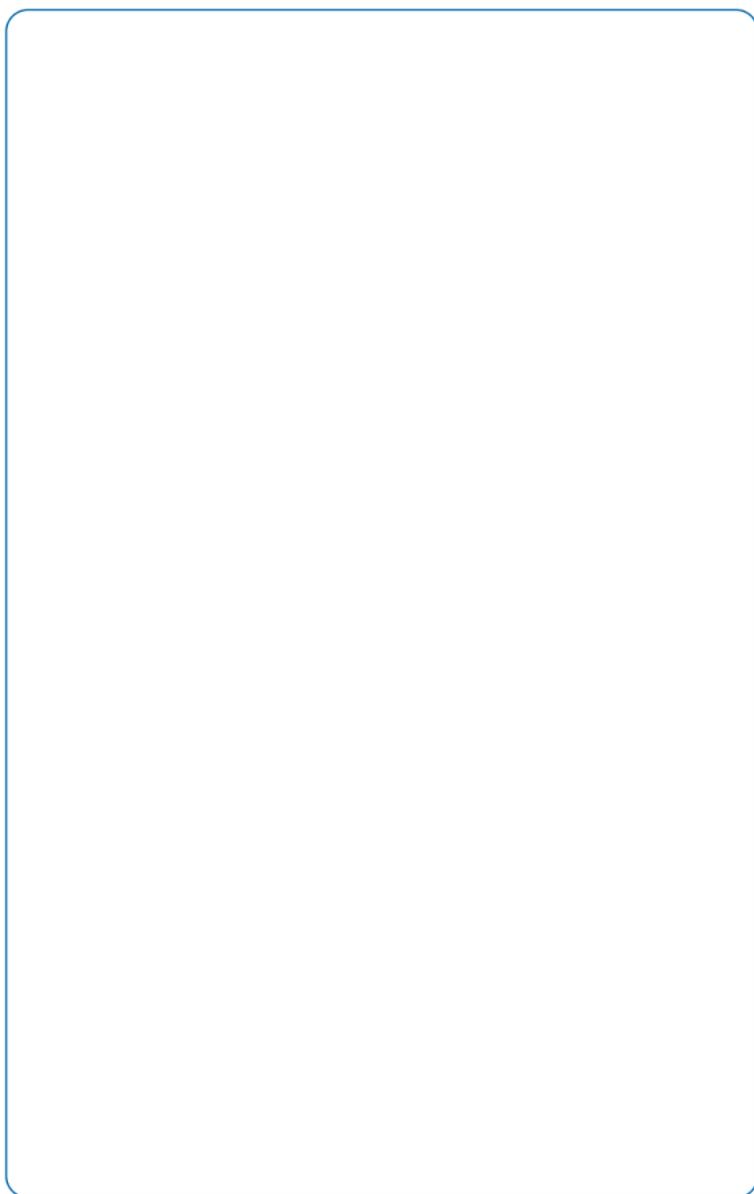
Unfortunately, by the time your dog has started coughing, the disease has already damaged its respiratory system.

As with any serious disease, prevention is always better than cure. Effective intranasal vaccines are available against the most significant causes and can be administered routinely alongside your pet's normal annual boosters.

*They suggests that the
s are acquired in places
han kennels²*



Ask your vet for details



For more information about vaccination against kennel cough visit www.future-of-vaccination.co.uk

1. Estimate based on extrapolation of CICADA UK survey disease reports to March 2012. 2. Estimate based on a telephone survey of UK vets' recent cases, MSD Animal Health, Nov 2009.

Kennel cough is a complex syndrome with multiple triggers and risk factors. Vaccination against kennel cough can confer immunity against the most important pathogens, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and parainfluenza virus.