

- From the Makers of **Dog-Gone-Cough** : Immune Boosting Formula -



KennelCough.com

The Web's #1 Source for Information about
Prevention, Diagnosis & Treatment



**Hello and welcome to web's #1 resource
of kennel cough.**

We built this document to provide you, the pet owner, with all the information that you need to know about kennel cough in dogs, including: diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. In addition, we will provide the latest news and other dog related information to help keep you pet healthy for years to come.

Visit our site (<http://kennelcough.com>) for more



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What is kennel cough?

Kennel Cough is an extremely contagious respiratory disease in dogs, known scientifically as canine infectious tracheobronchitis. It is considered to be one of the most prevalent infectious respiratory diseases in dogs. Kennel cough most commonly occurs where groups of dogs are congregated together, such as doggie day-cares, pet shops, veterinary hospitals, grooming parlors, parks, shelters, and kennels (hence the name kennel cough!). It is found worldwide, and can affect dogs of any age and breed. It most commonly affects dogs in summer and fall, but can occur any time of year. Kennel cough can become serious and even lead to pneumonia if left untreated, especially in young puppies. Therefore it is best to schedule a physical exam with your veterinarian if you are concerned about kennel cough.



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What causes kennel cough?

There are many infectious agents that can lead to kennel cough, making it a more complicated disease than many people think. Kennel cough can be caused by viruses, bacteria, mycoplasmas, or a combination of the three.

Canine parainfluenza virus is the virus most commonly found in dogs with kennel cough. Canine adenovirus, distemper virus, herpesvirus, and reovirus are also thought to be involved in kennel cough, as well as their own corresponding diseases, making vaccination against them very important.

Although both mycoplasmas (a type of microbe), and several viruses play roles in the causes of kennel cough, the primary agent of infection is the bacteria *Bordatella Bronchiseptica*. In order to understand how *Bordatella* infects the lungs, first let's get an understanding how healthy lungs work.

One of the body's defensive mechanisms used to keep the lungs healthy is called the mucociliary apparatus, which works kind of like an escalator in the upper respiratory tract. The respiratory tract is lined with little hair-like projections called cilia. When we (and dogs) breathe in things that we don't want in our lungs like bacteria, dust, etc., it gets trapped in mucus and the little cilia beat to work the trapped particles out of the respiratory tract, and eventually they get coughed up and swallowed, preventing them from taking residence in our lungs and causing disease.

Bordatella is a tough little organism that attaches to, and replicates on, the cilia that line the respiratory tract. There they begin to produce toxins that prevent the cilia from beating and prevent the body's cells from destroying the invading bacteria and fighting off illness, eventually leading to kennel cough. Not only do these conditions allow *Bordatella* to grow and replicate, but it also paves the way for other infectious agents to come in. If the body is unable



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to fight off the infection, it can progress into a serious infection of the lungs, in other words: pneumonia.

What are the symptoms of kennel cough?

Kennel cough is characterized by a dry, hacking cough often followed by gagging or coughing up mucus. Many people describe it as a hoarse sound or a loud "honking," which occurs because of laryngitis, or swollen vocal cords. Usually the coughing comes on in a sudden (acute) attack. Coughing can be induced when the dog becomes excited, exercises, or in response to changes in temperature or humidity. Nasal discharge is also a common finding in dogs with kennel cough. Usually dogs with mild cases of kennel cough are still active and maintain a good appetite, and usually don't have a fever. However in very severe cases, the symptoms may progress to include inappetence, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, lethargy, a moist productive cough, discharge from the eyes and nose, and exercise intolerance, and can even develop into pneumonia.



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What does kennel cough sound like?

Please Visit the link below for to listen the audio:

<http://kennelcough.com/what-does-kennel-cough-sound-like.html#answer>



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How is kennel cough diagnosed?

If you are concerned your dog may have kennel cough, you should definitely schedule a visit with your veterinarian. Usually he or she can diagnose kennel cough based on the symptoms, a physical exam, and your dog's history. Your veterinarian may perform a transtracheal wash, a procedure in which a catheter is passed into the trachea, the trachea is flushed with a sterile solution to "wash" the trachea, and then the solution is collected and cultured to find out what virus or bacteria is causing the illness. It is important to understand that even if your dog has been vaccinated for kennel cough, that doesn't mean he/she can't still get kennel cough. Remember, the disease is complicated, and can be caused by many agents. There's no simple blood test to diagnose kennel cough, but your veterinarian may recommend routine bloodwork to get an idea of the overall health of the dog. He or she may also take chest x-rays to assess the lungs and rule out more severe or complicated diseases.



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How did/how can my dog become infected? How is Kennel Cough spread?

Most likely, your dog contracted kennel cough by coming in contact with another infected dog. Outbreaks of kennel cough result from direct dog-to-dog contact or from airborne contact with the respiratory secretions of a dog with kennel cough. A dog can also get kennel cough by using the same bowl as an infected dog that hasn't been cleaned properly, or even from a human touching an infected dog and not washing his or her hands before touching another dog. In other words, the illness is spread among dogs the same way the common cold is spread among humans. That's why most outbreaks occur where large numbers of dogs are kept in close quarters or where they have contact with one another, such as boarding facilities, doggie daycares, dog parks, veterinary hospitals, grooming shops, pet stores, shelters, etc. In fact, research shows that outbreaks of kennel cough may affect more than 50% of dogs in such places.

Dogs that are unvaccinated against the agents that cause kennel cough are of course the most likely to contract the infection. Also, animals who are immunocompromised, or have a weak immune system, are more susceptible to illnesses like kennel cough.



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How long does kennel cough last?

After exposure to kennel cough, it can take anywhere from 3-10 days before the dog shows signs of infection. This is called the incubation period. In most cases, the dog will respond to treatment in 10-14 days. However, it is important to finish all of the medications prescribed by your veterinarian, even if your dog seems to be feeling better. Additionally, you should keep the dog relatively quiet and allow him or her to rest for at least 2-3 weeks after infection. Vigorous exercise or too much activity can aggravate the symptoms of kennel cough.

And most importantly, if your dog has kennel cough, keeping him or her away from other dogs for at least 1-2 weeks is a **MUST** to prevent the spread of disease.



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How serious is it and should I worry?

Most dogs recover uneventfully from kennel cough. However, there is always the chance that the disease could progress to a more serious case of kennel cough, or worse, pneumonia. That's why it's so important to get your dog checked out as soon as possible if you think he or she may have kennel cough. Plus, if your dog is coughing, you want to be sure that it's not due to something more life-threatening like heartworm disease, cancer, or congestive heart failure.

If your dog does have kennel cough, early diagnosis is key not only in the treatment of your dog, but also in preventing the disease from spreading to other dogs, whether they are your own or belong to other pet owners. Early intervention is the only way to prevent an outbreak once an infection occurs.



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Do I need to take my dog to a vet if I think he/she might have kennel cough?

Yes! Although a mild case of kennel cough usually isn't life-threatening, the disease can progress into a much more serious case and can even lead to pneumonia, so it's important to see your vet and get started on a treatment. However, it's also important to note that dogs can cough for many reasons other than kennel cough. Coughing is a symptom or clinical sign of other conditions such as allergies and environmental pollutants, and even much more serious problems like fungal infections, heartworm disease, congestive heart failure, and even cancer. In any case, a coughing dog should be taken to the veterinarian in order to pinpoint the exact cause of his or her symptoms.



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How is kennel cough treated?

If your dog is diagnosed with kennel cough, your veterinarian will most likely prescribe oral antibiotics. Common antibiotics used in the treatment of kennel cough are amoxicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanate (Clavamox®), azithromycin, trimethoprim-sulfonamide, doxycycline, enrofloxacin (Baytril®), or chloramphenicol, among others. In severe cases, gentamicin, amikacin, cefazolin, may be used. Your vet will choose the best treatment based on the severity of your dog's illness, antibiotic tolerance, and test results.

In addition to antibiotics, your veterinarian may prescribe a cough suppressant. This could be in the form of a glucocorticoid such as prednisolone, a narcotic cough suppressant such as hydrocodone, or a bronchodilator such as theophylline or aminophylline. Alternately, your veterinarian may recommend an over-the-counter cough suppressant like Robitussin. Although it is generally safe to give dogs Robitussin, never administer any medication to your pets without first consulting your veterinarian.

In a severe case, your dog may require nebulization therapy, which uses a small machine to administer medication in the form of a mist that is inhaled directly into the lungs. In most cases of kennel cough, nebulization is not necessary. It is usually only required in dogs that do not respond to antibiotic therapy or in cases that have progressed to pneumonia.



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What are the best medications?

There is no one "best" medication or course of treatment for kennel cough. Your veterinarian will decide the best treatment for your dog based on his or her symptoms, medical history, the severity of the illness, and test results.



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Can I treat my dog at home?

As mentioned before, kennel cough requires a trip to the vet, who will likely send you home with antibiotics and a cough suppressant if kennel cough is diagnosed. However, the key in getting your dog healthy again is YOU! Treatment starts at the vet, but continues and ends at home. Your role as pet owner in treating kennel cough is critical. It is up to you to appropriately administer medications as directed by your veterinarian. It's important to keep your dog rested and quiet, not letting him or her exert himself in any way. Also, it is up to you to help control the spread of infection by keeping your dog isolated from other dogs.

One thing you can do at home to help your dog recover from kennel cough is to place him or her in the bathroom filled with steam from a hot shower for about 15-20 minutes. This will help loosen the secretions and mucous in the lungs, making it easier for your dog to cough it up. Afterwards, cupping the chest will help loosen secretions even more. This technique, also called percussion therapy, involves cupping the hand and gently but quickly tapping the dog's chest wall. This can be repeated several times a day and is beneficial to perform while the dog is coughing. If you are unsure how to perform this therapy, ask your veterinarian to show you, or watch the video below. You'll want to check with your veterinarian before beginning steam therapy or cuppage.



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Is there a natural remedy or treatment?

There are a small number of "remedies" that can be found online. We are strong believers in the power of anti-oxidants for helping your own bodies natural defense.



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What is an anti-oxidant?

By definition an anti-oxidant is a substance that either slows or prevents the oxidative damage to other cells in our body. The oxidation reactions produce what are called free radicals which have been shown to damage other cells in the surrounding area. Anti-oxidants have been classified as "free radical scavengers". This is why anti-oxidants can potentially be so powerful because they can stop and remove the free radicals and also inhibit other oxidation reactions from occurring.

In nature we see these anti-oxidants at work such as glutathione, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Catalast, Superoxide dismutase



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What is Dog-Gone Cough?

Dog-Gone Cough was formulated by veterinarian Dr. James St.Clair and a 20 year veteran industry leader in pet supplement, to help support dogs immune systems when put under increased stress. According to Dr. St.Clair he was frustrated that dogs who were vaccinated were still contracting kennel cough, and a lot of times, not just once but several times. In addition, Dr. St.Clair wanted to formulate a powerhouse anti-oxidant supplement for other sick patients to help them in their recovery process.

Supporting your dogs immune system is extremely important especially in times of increased stress or increased exposure to harmful pathogens allowing them to fight quicker, harder and therefore be more effective in maintaining overall good health. Dog-Gone Cough helps to support your dogs immune system through its blend of vitamins, minerals and other key nutrients that all work together to create a immune supporting power house.

It has been shown that many antioxidants work synergistically, meaning they work together more effectively as a group versus individually on their own. No single antioxidant can protect against all conditions and that is why Dog-Gone Cough is made up of EIGHT groups of the strongest most effective natural antioxidants, 17 antioxidants in total.



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How can I prevent kennel cough?

The first line of defense against kennel cough is definitely vaccination. Puppies should be vaccinated against adenovirus, parainfluenza, and distemper virus according to your veterinarian's vaccination protocol to aid in the prevention of kennel cough. Typically, first vaccinations should be given around 8 weeks of age, and are boosted twice in the first year, then repeated annually after that. Puppies should also receive the Bordatella, or kennel cough vaccine. This vaccine may be given subcutaneously or intranasally, and depending on the manufacturer, may be first given as young as 2-4 weeks of age, but is usually recommended at 8 weeks of age. (Note: this is not a complete list of vaccinations that your puppy or adult dog should receive. For a complete vaccination schedule, consult your veterinarian.)

Aside from vaccination, the other line of defense against kennel cough is ensuring that your dog has a healthy immune system --> Dog-Gone Cough can possibly help assist with building a rock solid immune system. It is recommended to begin taking Dog-Gone Cough at least two weeks prior to boarding or visiting a dog daycare center. In addition, Dog-Gone Cough would be continued at the recommended dose during the stay. Many pet owners even use Dog-Gone Cough as a daily nutritional supplement to keep their pets immune system healthy.

Additionally, If you are aware of an outbreak of kennel cough at your local kennel, groomer, dog park, etc., you may want to try to avoid those places if possible for a few weeks to prevent your dog from contracting kennel cough.



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Should my dog get the Bordatella vaccine?

Absolutely! Vaccination is one of our few defenses against kennel cough, and is especially important to administer to dogs who have contact with other dogs, whether that is at a kennel, daycare, park, or a friend's house. Ultimately, your veterinarian will guide you on vaccinating against Bordatella, but if he or she forgets to mention it (since it often is not part of the core vaccine schedule and is considered optional), don't hesitate to ask! Never forget that you are the #1 advocate for your dog's health!



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How effective is the vaccine?

The Bordetella vaccine has been researched and proven to be fairly effective but it is definitely not uncommon for dogs that have been vaccinated to contract the disease. There can be several reasons for this, one of the most common being that the dog was not vaccinated in advance enough prior to the exposure, therefore the dog did not have enough time to build the proper immune defenses. Again, though the vaccine is the standard, taking other precautions such as supporting a strong immune system can truly help in keeping your pet health.



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How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine works by promoting the formation of IgA antibodies which play a critical role in mucosal immunity and then also producing a high IgG antibody response. Effective concentrations of these antibodies usually take around 10 days to form.



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How often should my pet be vaccinated against kennel cough?

Canine parainfluenza, adenovirus, and distemper virus, the main viral causes of kennel cough should be given in 3 separate doses as part of the puppy series, then should be boosted annually. The Bordatella vaccine should be given in 2 doses for the initial set, and then boosted annually. However, some boarding facilities and grooming parlors require that dogs be vaccinated against Bordatella every six months. Check with your veterinarian as well as your groomer or kennel when scheduling vaccinations.



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What are the risks of vaccination?

The risk of the vaccination is similar to any other vaccine risk. Allergic hypersensitivity reactions can occur. If you find that your dog has excessive pain or facial swelling after the vaccination, contact your veterinarian immediately. Your pet may require some benadryl or another antihistamine at this time.



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Is the nasal vaccination or the injectable better for my dog?

Both vaccines have been shown to be effective. Even more recently, Pfizer who manufactures both the intranasal and the injectable vaccine recommends and has reported that sequential administration provides the highest degree of protection for potential infection.



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Can my other pets contract kennel cough?

Absolutely! Again Kennel cough or canine infectious tracheobronchitis is an EXTREMELY contagious respiratory disease and is airborne spread. It is almost 100 certain that if one dog in your house contracts kennel cough, most likely it will spread throughout all of your pets.



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Is kennel cough contagious to humans?

Absolutely! *Bordetella bronchiseptica* is considered a zoonotic pathogen, meaning that it can cross species. In addition, cases of infection have been reported in both healthy and immunocompromised humans.

With that being said you also have to remember that bacteria may also be involved.

Therefore, if your dog has a bad case of kennel cough there is no doubt that you should take the proper precautions, same as you would if another family member in the house was sick with an upper respiratory infection.



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