

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. Puppies are usually vaccinated for these in combination with distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus in a series of immunisations. It is important to note that the vaccines that are used to prevent this viral disease are made from one strain of more than 100 different strains of the virus and therefore are not as effective against some strains as others.

Intra-nasal vaccines are also available for Bordetella bronchioseptica (another cause of canine cough). Although some veterinary practices do not use this intra-nasal vaccination routinely, it should be considered for pets that board or for those whose veterinarian recommends it.

Your vet is in the best position to recommend a program of preventive health care management depending on your pet's needs.

Can't the kennel prevent my dog from catching tracheobronchitis?

Unfortunately, no... no amount of supervision, sanitation, or personalised care can prevent a dog from "catching" an airborne virus. All that a good boarding kennel can do is to strongly recommend immunisation 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). Professional boarding kennels would justifiably expect owners to accept the financial responsibility for such care. Your PIAA member is devoted to your pet's well being. Look for his membership certificate proudly displayed.

Dogs Country Club & Kennel Resort

15 Sumner Rd Baxter VIC 3911

Phone: 03 5971 1127

www.dogscountryclub.com.au

Pet Industry Association Of Australia

PO Box 7108, Baulkham Hills Business Centre NSW 2153

Phone (02) 9659 5811

Fax (02) 9659 5822

E-Mail info@piaa.net.au

www.piaa.net.au

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Veterinary Advice

Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis (Canine Cough) is usually a self-limiting condition just like the common cold in humans, and in many cases will resolve with no treatment. Secondary infections can sometimes develop in dogs with Canine Cough, and more severe complications such as pneumonia, although possible, very rarely occur.

There are a number of factors to consider in the treatment of Canine Cough, which includes the age of your dog, severity and duration of the cough, immune status and the presence of any other concurrent illness or condition. Your Veterinarian may prescribe a course of antibiotics to prevent a secondary bacterial infection, and sometimes an antitussive to ease the cough and make your pet more comfortable. Antihistamines and bronchodilators are also sometimes used.

I am often asked about the use of human cough syrups in dogs. Although not registered for use in animals, a suitable human cough syrup given at the correct dose is safe for most dogs with Canine Cough. As a guide, Robitussin Dry Cough Forte can be given three to four times daily at the following dose rates according to your dog's size:

Dog Size:	Dosage:
Less than 5 kg	1 mL
5 to 10 kg	3 mL
10 to 20 kg	5 mL
Over 20 kg	10 mL

The easiest way to measure and administer the cough mixture is with a syringe placed in the side of the mouth.

Finally, it is important to remember that if your dog has or may have a concurrent condition, is elderly, not improving, not responding to cough syrup or you are concerned for any reason, contact or visit your Veterinarian for advice.

If you have any questions regarding Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis and its treatment, please feel free to call me on 5975 3811.

Dr Adam J Stefani BVSc

Veterinary Surgeon

Address: Unit 4 / 1140 Nepean Hwy, Mornington VIC 3931

Phone: (03) 5975 3811

Fax: (03) 5975 6545

www.morningtonvetclinic.com.au



Canine Cough

Customer Information Sheet

Your Dogs, Our Family

Ph: 03 5971 1127

www.dogscountryclub.com.au



At Dogs Country Club your dog's health & safety is our number 1 priority. The following information has been provided to help you to better understand about Canine Cough.

What are the signs?

How can you treat it?

What does the vaccine mean in all of this?



As per the Victorian Boarding Code NO dog can be admitted for boarding without a current C5 vaccination.

We have strict daily cleaning processes and an isolation area should we have to quarantine any dogs from the general boarding population. Even with all these strategies and the constant supervision we provide to all of our guests we are unable to control airbourne viruses.

Should we ever have Canine Cough on our premises or hear of it in the area we will advise you when picking up your dog and let you know what to look for. Just like humans, some dogs are more susceptible to illness and some recover more quickly. Being alert, understanding the signs and how to help your dog get through canine cough is the best course of action you can take to help your dog – just like your two legged family members.

One of the public relations problems for boarding kennels today is caused by a much misunderstood dog disease called “canine cough”, tracheobronchitis, often improperly referred to as “kennel cough”. As a dog owner you should be aware of some of the facts about this disease.

What is Canine Cough?

Infectious tracheobronchitis is a highly contagious, upper-respiratory disease that is spread by an airborne virus. The incubation period of the disease is roughly 3–7 days. The main symptom is a gagging 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 thus increasing susceptibility to secondary infections, and so the dog must be observed closely to avoid complications.

How is it Cured?

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

Does tracheobronchitis occur only in kennels?

No. Since these viruses can be present anywhere, and can travel for considerable distances through the air, they can affect any dog... even one which never leaves its own backyard. But tracheobronchitis

is more likely to occur when the concentration of dogs is greater such as dog shows, kennels, veterinarian clinics and hospitals as well as pet shops, dog play parks and leash free areas. Dogs can also be exposed while running loose or while being walked near other dogs.

But aren't the chances of catching it greater when a dog is in a kennel?

Yes... because, in a kennel, a dog encounters two conditions which do not exist at home... proximity to a number of potentially contagious dogs, and the stress and 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). But the more frequently a dog boards at a kennel, the greater are the chances that he will acquire immunity to the disease. Even during a widespread outbreak, only a fairly small percentage of exposed dogs are affected.

Are these viruses a constant problem?

No. Tracheobronchitis, like the flu, is often seasonal. It also tends to be epidemic. When veterinarians begin to see cases, they normally come from every kennel in the area, as well as from individual dog owners whose dogs are not kennelled at all. When the outbreak is over, they might not see another case for months.