



## 2018 Kennel Cough Update

It's the time of year that veterinarians often report a seasonal rise in kennel cough cases. Although we require the kennel cough vaccination, it can't prevent every virus variant that may result in a cough. Our staff is very vigilant in watching the dogs for coughs and when dog coughing occurs the dog is immediately isolated and the parent or emergency contact is called for immediate pick-up.

You can help us minimize the risk of kennel cough at Rover Come Over by recognizing its symptoms and taking appropriate action. We'd ask that if your dog is coughing or exhibiting any other symptoms, you please **call your vet immediately**. Unfortunately, it's critical that your dog not return to daycare for a minimum of two (2) weeks. Additionally, your dog must fully complete any course of treatment prescribed by your vet before returning.

***Again, if your dog has a cough, call your vet first and then please call Rover Come Over and let us know.***

Thus far, we've not experienced any outbreak of kennel cough at Rover Come Over and we're only disseminating this information in an effort to remain proactive in keeping it that way. As always, the sanitation cycle at Rover is constant and rigorous and our staff is trained to quickly spot kennel cough symptoms. It's our priority to keep a safe, healthy facility for your dog.



### Kennel Cough Symptoms

**WORRIED THAT YOUR DOG MAY HAVE CONTRACTED KENNEL COUGH?** Although canine cough syndrome is not usually a major health concern, it's important to identify what's going on right away to ensure the symptoms are not masking a more serious underlying condition. There are several indications aside from the hacking to look out for. Monitor your pet closely for the following indications of kennel cough in your dog.

**WHAT IS KENNEL COUGH?** Just as human colds may be caused by many different viruses, kennel cough itself can have multiple causes. One of the most common culprits is a bacterium called *Bordetella bronchiseptica m--* which is why kennel cough is often called Bordetella. Most dogs that become infected with Bordetella are infected with a virus at the same time. Dogs "catch" kennel cough when they inhale bacteria or virus particles into their respiratory tract. This tract is normally lined with a coating of mucus that traps infectious particles, but there are a number of factors that can weaken this protection and make dogs prone to kennel cough infection, which results in inflammation of the larynx (voice box) and trachea (windpipe).

**The Cough** Kennel cough can almost sound like a honking noise at times. It's a persistent dry hacking that sounds like your dog is going to vomit. It's common for your dog to cough many times in succession with the final cough looking and sounding like your dog is trying to hack something out. This is very uncomfortable for your pet, and can put a big strain on its body if it's not treated right away. **CALL YOUR VET** if your dog is coughing.

**Exercise** Most dogs will still want to be active regardless of their cough. However, if you notice that the cough gets worse every time they go for a run, it's most likely kennel cough, and is best to limit their exercise until all symptoms of the cough are gone. It may be hard to deny your pets the exercise they look forward to everyday, but rest is much more important in this situation so they can recover as quickly as possible.

**Hacking up Foamy Liquid and Phlegm** Hacking up phlegm is a common symptom of kennel cough, the same way humans do when we have the flu. It is also possible that they may throw up liquid and foam. If they eat their food or drink their water too quickly, they may vomit their dinner and phlegmy water due to an irritated throat. Some dogs won't cough anything up during kennel cough, but are still suffering from an uncomfortable throat (respiratory tract) disease that should be treated right away.

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