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What are the signs of kennel cough?

Signs vary between patient, but common signs include:

- dogs are usually 'well'
- acute onset 'hacking' cough
- cough is usually exacerbated by exercise or excitement
- some dogs may try to 'vomit' or cough up foamy material

What causes kennel cough?

Just like the human cold, there are many agents that can cause kennel cough. The most common culprits are the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and the viruses Canine Adenovirus (CAV-1) and Parainfluenza virus.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis usually comes from physical examination, clinical signs and history of the patient. If the patient is not improving within 7 days, or presents with signs of pneumonia, x-rays and blood testing may be required.



Kennel Cough

Canine infectious respiratory disease complex (CIRDC), otherwise known as 'kennel cough', is a common upper respiratory infection affecting dogs.

Kennel cough is highly contagious and is spread via aerosolised bacterial/viral particles from infected dogs. These dogs cough or sneeze into the environment where un-infected dogs can inhale the infection. It can also be spread through contact with contaminated surfaces or areas (such as bedding).

There is usually an incubation period, and clinical signs usually manifest 3-5 days after infection. However, this may be longer or shorter depending on the patient. Dogs of all ages can be affected, but younger or older dogs with compromised immune systems are of a higher risk. Other factors that increase risk of infection include exposure to crowded conditions, such as are found in many kennels, doggy daycare facilities or animal shelters, cold weather, exposure to dust or cigarette smoke and even travel-induced stress.

Treatment/Prevention.

We can help to prevent kennel cough through yearly vaccination. This will help to prevent against some of the more common strains of kennel cough. Veterinarians may provide cough syrups in order to prevent the cough and further cause damage to the structures of the upper airway and throat. Some cases may require antibiotics or other treatments.