

Kennel Cough



Kennel cough, also known as **canine infectious tracheobronchitis**, is a highly contagious respiratory disease in dogs. It is caused by a variety of viruses and bacteria, the most common being **Bordetella bronchiseptica** and **canine parainfluenza virus**. The infection primarily affects the dog's trachea (windpipe) and bronchi (airways), causing irritation and inflammation.

WHEN TO MONITOR KENNEL COUGH

In many cases, kennel cough is mild and can resolve on its own without the need for immediate veterinary treatment if your dog shows the following signs:

- **Mild Cough:** The dog has a dry, hacking cough but is otherwise active, eating, and drinking normally.
- **No Other Symptoms:** The dog doesn't show signs of fever, lethargy, or a decrease in appetite.
- **Healthy Adult Dog:** The dog is otherwise healthy, without underlying conditions (e.g., heart disease, respiratory issues, or immunosuppression).
- **Short Duration:** The symptoms are new and have lasted for only a few days (typically, mild cases of kennel cough improve within 1-2 weeks).

In these cases, it's generally safe to monitor your dog at home, ensuring they rest, stay hydrated, and avoid strenuous activities.

WHEN TO SEEK TREATMENT FOR KENNEL COUGH

Treatment should be considered if:

- **Persistent or Worsening Cough:** The cough lasts more than a few days or worsens, especially if the dog starts having difficulty breathing or the cough becomes productive.
- **Other Symptoms Appear:**
 - Lethargy
 - Loss of Appetite
 - Fever
- **Senior Dogs or Puppies:** Older dogs or puppies may be at a higher risk for complications, including pneumonia.
- **Pre-existing Health Conditions:** Dogs with heart disease, respiratory issues, or compromised immune systems (e.g., those on immunosuppressive medications) are more likely to develop complications from kennel cough.
- **Secondary Infection Signs:** If the cough is followed by nasal discharge (thick and greenish) or difficulty breathing.

