

CANINE COUGH FAQ'S



What is Canine Cough?

Canine Cough is the dog equivalent of the human cold. It is highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection syndrome, caused by several different viruses (including canine parainfluenza) or bacteria as well as by complex combinations between those different viruses and bacteria.

How do dogs get Canine Cough?

Canine Cough is spread as droplets in the air from one infected dog to a healthy dog. When an infected dog coughs, the bacteria and viruses will usually die quickly in the air unless those droplets are inhaled by another dog in proximity. It can also be spread through contaminated surfaces (like on your clothes, sharing toys, food and drinking bowls).

What are the symptoms of Canine Cough?

The symptoms include:

- runny nose
- sneezing
- dry, hacking cough
- gagging
- fever and lethargy

What causes Canine Cough?

Many different pathogens can be responsible for, or contribute towards, causing canine cough. In fact, every year, the list of causative agents grows longer by another a name or two. The current list includes the following:

Bacteria: Bordetella (*B. bronchiseptica*), Streptococcus, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia

Viruses: Canine Parainfluenza (CPIV), Canine Influenza, Canine Adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2), Canine Distemper, Canine Herpesvirus, Canine Reovirus, Canine Respiratory Coronavirus and Canine Pneumovirus.

Some of these viruses do not cause Canine Cough directly but can contribute to susceptibility by weakening the dog's immune system.

Canine Cough Incubation Period

It usually takes between 3-10 days after exposure for the clinical manifestation of canine cough to become obvious. However, there are reported cases in which the incubation period has lasted for as long as 2 weeks.

How long does Canine Cough last?

Usually, if there are no complications, canine cough resolves within 2 or 3 weeks

Canine Cough Treatment

Since canine cough is a self-limiting condition (usually resolves on its own over time), when dealing with mild cases, it is advisable to let the disease run its course. More severe cases are traditionally treated with antibiotics and cough suppressants. A common antibiotic used to treat this condition is Doxycycline. Dogs with secondary pneumonia will require hospitalization (they need to receive intravenous fluids, antibiotics and oxygen therapy).

Canine Cough Vaccine

A vaccine is available for the Bordetella bacterium, which is the most common agent to cause Canine Cough. Dogs who are frequently boarded, visit dog day care, compete in canine sports, or otherwise are exposed to large groups of dogs may benefit from the vaccine. Hanrob Pet Hotels requires all pets to be fully vaccinated with the Canine Cough vaccination at least 5 days prior to arrival. The vaccine is available in oral, intranasal, and injectable forms, and depending on the form, it is usually initially given in two doses two to four weeks apart, followed by a booster every six months to a year.