

# Canine Cough (Kennel Cough)

It is important that all clients are made aware that Kennel Cough is always present in the Perth area and DOES NOT ORIGINATE IN A KENNEL.

We absolutely WILL NOT allow dogs to enter our facility that are coughing or showing signs of kennel cough. However, it may be IMPOSSIBLE for us to tell when a boarder has been exposed to kennel cough PRIOR to his/her arrival.

Kennel Cough, akin to a “doggy cold,” is a generic term used to indicate canine infectious tracheobronchitis, a highly infectious upper respiratory disease that is caused from a number of bacteria such as Bordetella bronchiseptica, and viruses such as canine parainfluenza. Coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge are common symptoms of kennel cough. These symptoms can last from a few days to several weeks. Since it is a viral infection, there is no "cure," just as there is no cure for the common cold. As a self-limiting disease, it will go away on its own, just like any other cold or flu. However, many veterinarians will prescribe a cough suppressant or an antibiotic to prevent secondary infections.

We recommend that all dogs that enter our kennel be properly vaccinated and that the owners provide us with written proof. However we recognise that like the Human Flu vaccine, the Canine Cough vaccine does not protect against every strain or variant of the virus and thus even vaccinated dogs may catch Canine Cough.

Kennel cough is not "born" in the kennel, it can be (and usually is) "caught" outside the kennel and brought in by a boarder. A dog can be exposed at the park, grooming shop, pet store, veterinary office, walking around the neighborhood, or any place where dogs congregate or pass through. The disease is not unique to a kennel, therefore; the more appropriate term is CANINE COUGH. Unfortunately, canine cough usually does not show visible symptoms for 5-7 days after exposure. While we make intense efforts to prevent an outbreak in our kennel through extensive cleaning and disinfecting, public awareness, and by requiring vaccinations, we cannot guarantee that your dog will not be exposed.

Just as a child who attends school has the potential to contract a cold or the flu, which is seasonal, a dog being boarded also has the potential to contract canine cough, which is also seasonal. When a child gets a cold or the flu parents do not expect the school system to pay for treatment. Similarly, if a dog gets canine cough in our kennel, you should not expect us to cover the cost of treatment. Through our efforts, the possibility of your dog's exposure to canine cough in our kennel is minimal, however; it is still possible. Please be advised that if exposure to canine cough does occur, the kennel will not be held liable for its treatment, cost thereof, or consequences.

Fraser Lodge Kennels follow strict cleansing and sanitation procedures. However, no amount of supervision, sanitation or personalized care by any boarding facility can prevent a dog from catching an airborne virus. Please consult your Veterinarian before boarding for further information. All dogs are recommended to be vaccinated against Bordetella and Canine Parainfluenza in addition to the required vaccination against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus; therefore,

**CLIENTS WHO BOARD THEIR DOGS WITH US DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK.**