

# Canine Cough

## Dogs are Wonderful Companions

Dogs have always been social creatures. From their early evolution in packs to their domestication as companions and codependents with man, it is uncommon to see the 'lone wolf'. In today's society, the canine species has a multitude of opportunities for social interaction with people, dogs and other animals. Socializing your dog can be very beneficial to their development, behaviour and well-being. It should be encouraged as much as possible. Just like people, however, increased social interaction means increased exposure to common diseases. It is not surprising, then, to find that some of our canine companions can develop the 'snuffles' too.



## All Dogs are at Risk of Canine Cough



Canine cough (or infectious tracheobronchitis) is one of the most common respiratory diseases. All dogs are at risk of canine cough due to its worldwide presence. Canine cough is a highly contagious, stubborn infection that can keep dogs coughing for months and may require treatment with antibiotics and cough suppressing medications. Left untreated, it can lead to more serious conditions including: chronic bronchitis, tracheal collapse and pneumonia. It is easily transmitted through nose-to-nose contact, coughing and sneezing. Typical signs include a characteristic honking or gagging cough and a clear, nasal discharge.

Since dogs are more mobile and social than ever, exposure to canine cough can take place during everyday activities.

Your dog may be at risk in any of these situations:

Training Classes	Multi-dog households
Dog daycare	Dog shows
Breeding facilities	Agility competitions
Pet stores	Veterinary clinic visits
Kennels	Family vacations
Groomers	Dog parks
Shelters	

Canine cough can deprive your dog – and you – of sleep, can cause appetite loss, lack of energy and poor appearance.

### **It's Easy to Prevent Canine Cough**

Vaccination helps prevent, not cure, disease and the protection provided by a vaccine gradually declines over time. That's why re-vaccination based on your dog's particular risk factors, along with a health check up, is always recommended. Pet's considered at higher risk (daycares, boarding facilities, shelters, etc.) are often given the canine cough vaccination more frequently to protect from canine respiratory disease.



Your veterinarian can protect your dog against canine cough with an injectable or intranasal vaccine. The vaccine is ideally given a couple of weeks prior to expected exposure, so plan ahead. Then, when it's time to travel, board your dog or sign up for classes or competitions, you know your dog is already protected.