



# Canine/Kennel Cough

## Something you should know before you go...

*Canine Cough*, or sometimes referred to as *Kennel Cough*, is a serious illness that can occur with dogs.

Here are a few things that you, as a **Camp Happy Hound** member, need to know!

### **🐾 What is “Canine Cough?”**

Canine Cough (Infectious Tracheobronchitis) is a highly contagious upper-respiratory disease, which is spread through an *air-borne virus*. The growth period of the disease is roughly 3-14 days. Canine Cough, like the flu, is often seasonal! It also tends to hit an entire area at once.

The main symptom of Canine Cough is a harsh dry cough, which can include sneezing/snorting and nasal discharge, this last anywhere from a couple of days to several weeks. Although this coughing is very aggravating, it does not usually develop into anything more serious. However, it is highly recommended that a veterinarian treat the disease. Canine Cough can also lower a dog's resistance to other disease, making him/her vulnerable to secondary infections.

### **🐾 Does Canine Cough Occur Only in Kennels/Daycares?**

No! Since the Canine Cough virus can be present anywhere and can travel for a substantial distance through the air, it can affect any dog. Canine Cough can affect even those dogs that never leave their own yard! However, this disease is more likely to come about at a dog show, kennel, veterinarian office/hospital, dog parks, and pet shops, where the concentration of dogs is larger.

However, chances of contracting Canine Cough can be increased while at daycare, because dogs encounter two conditions that do not exist at home: proximity to a number of potentially contagious dogs and a less familiar environment. These same factors explain why children are more likely to catch the flu in school, rather than at home. Nevertheless, the more frequently your dog joins us at **Camp Happy Hound**, the greater the chances that he/she will acquire an immunity to Canine Cough!

### **🐾 Is There a Vaccination to Protect My Dog?**

Yes!! Your dog should habitually get their Bordetella vaccination from their veterinarian, every 6 months to help protect against Canine Cough. It is important to understand that the Bordetella vaccination used to prevent this viral disease is made up from only one strain of more than 100 different strains of the virus. Thus, the vaccination is not as effective as others against some strains of Canine Cough.

Canine Cough is just like the flu for humans, it is not a *curable* disease and it must run its own course. Many times antibiotics will be prescribed, by a veterinarian, to prevent secondary infection and sometimes cough suppressants will be suggested to reduce excessive coughing, but these medications do not actually attack the disease itself.