



Kennel Cough: Is It Serious?

A dog-cold cough versus the signs that need a vet

PETSLIKEMINE
BREATHING & AIRWAYS

DOG NAME _____	FIRST DAY OF COUGH _____	VET PRACTICE _____
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In an otherwise-well dog, kennel cough is usually a self-limiting dog cold that clears in one to three weeks. But a few signs mean it has tipped into something that needs a vet. Use this to tell the difference.

USUALLY FINE, A DOG COLD

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bright, playful and themselves | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating and drinking normally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A honking or hacking cough, but breathing easily between coughs | <input type="checkbox"/> No fever |

SEE A VET IF YOU NOTICE

A cough with a fever (hot, shivery, dull); a flat, lethargic dog that is off its food; fast or laboured breathing; or any cough in a young puppy, an old dog, or a dog that is already unwell. These can mean it is heading towards pneumonia.

LOOKING AFTER THEM AT HOME

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rest, no exercise, until the cough settles | <input type="checkbox"/> A harness, not a collar, which sets the cough off |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humid air helps: sit with them in a steamy bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep away from other dogs; it is very contagious |

HOW LONG, AND THE CONTAGIOUS BIT

Usually improving within one to two weeks and gone by about three, though a faint cough can linger. Stay away from daycare, classes, parks and other dogs until at least a week after the last cough.

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Bright and eating means watch and rest; feverish, flat or breathless means see a vet. Keep your dog away from others while it is coughing.

BRIGHT AND EATING = WATCH; FLAT AND FEVERISH = VET