

Kennel Cough Vaccination Information Sheet

About Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is the term frequently used to describe upper respiratory tract infections in dogs. In many animals the symptoms are mild to moderate but often distressing for the dog. In some animals it can however become much more serious. Kennel cough can be caused by several different bacteria and viruses. These are spread by aerosol (droplets of water in coughs and sneezes), so your dog doesn't even need to be in direct contact with another dog to catch it. By vaccinating your pet against the main associated bugs, we can greatly reduce the chance of them picking up this disease.

Kennel Cough Vaccination

The kennel cough vaccination is a live vaccine. It contains an avirulent vaccine strain of *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, the main bacterial cause of kennel cough. As a live vaccine, it can occasionally cause some mild coughing and sneezing for a few days following the vaccination. If you are worried about any symptoms in your pet following vaccination, please let us know.

Immunocompromised Owners

As a live vaccine, there is a very low theoretical risk that it could be transmitted to severely immunocompromised humans. As per the advice from MSD Animal Health, manufacturers of Nobivac Kennel Cough vaccine, this would be 'individuals that are known to be either affected by illness involving significant compromise of the immune system such as AIDS or other immune deficiency disorder OR receiving treatment or medication in ways that they have been warned may significantly suppress immunity'.

As mentioned above, this is a theoretical risk. Despite kennel cough vaccination being used in many countries around the world, there are no known confirmed cases of the vaccination strain causing clinical disease in humans.

It is also important to note that dogs infected with kennel cough are a far greater risk to immunocompromised individuals than pets who have received a vaccination. The extract below from the advice given by MSD Animal Health explains this further:

'Field strain *Bordetella bronchiseptica* [the type which dogs can contract from other dogs] is widespread in the population of dogs as well as a range of other domestic species. A dog that develops this common infection could harbour this organism for many months afterwards and potentially spread this to other in-contact animals and humans. In contrast the vaccine not only reduces the risk of clinical disease but has been shown to reduce the risk of excretion of field organism beyond 3 months post-vaccination.'

If you have any concerns about whether kennel cough vaccination could affect the health of you or a family member, please raise your concerns with us prior to vaccination or speak to your GP.