

Kennel cough

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious canine illness characterized by inflammation of the upper respiratory system.

Symptoms can include a harsh, dry hacking/coughing, retching, sneezing, snorting, gagging or vomiting in response to light pressing of the trachea or after excitement or exercise. The disease can last initially from 10–20 days.

Diagnosis is made by seeing symptoms and having a history of exposure is also helpful but not always found. Kennel cough is easily spread through contact with contaminated surfaces such as the ground, toys, and sidewalks.

Antibiotics are given to treat any bacterial infection present. Cough suppressants are used if the cough is not productive (nothing is being coughed up). Prevention is by vaccinating for canine Adenovirus, Distemper, Parainfluenza, and Bordetella.