



chippingnorton

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Opening times

8:00-18:45

Weekdays

8:30 - 12:45

Saturdays

Nurses Clinics

Weekdays

15:30 - 16:30

Branch Surgeries

Burford

14:30 - 16:00

Weekdays

11:30 - 12:00

Saturdays

Bloxham

17:00 - 18:00

Weekdays

11:30 - 12:00

Saturdays

Staff

Practice Directors

Peter Kettlewell

Stephen Cannon

Martin Whitehead

Consultant

Peter Aylmer

Assistants

Alison Roberts

Bronwyn Koterwas

Veterinary Nurses

Lynne Tyler RVN

Michelle Peedell RVN

Laura Nicholls SVN

Elaine Benfield SVN

Vikki Kershaw SVN

Kirtsy Bull SVN

Receptionists

Gemma Hutchins

Cynthia Gardner

Lucie Robinson

Claire Soles

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is caused by a combination of highly infectious viruses and bacteria that will spread rapidly in the air or by direct contact among a group of dogs in the right conditions. It usually presents with a few days of being off colour, then a hacking cough that starts whenever the dog gets excited or exercises.

The cough usually results in the production of white froth, or mucus, which some owners describe as retching. Generally healthy dogs are not too ill; they may have a mild temperature 103°F (normally 101-101.5°F) and may be a little off their food. The cough will get worse over the first few days then, if untreated, gradually resolve after 2-3 weeks. In very young or old dogs, or if there is concurrent heart or lung disease, kennel cough may become more serious and lead to secondary complications. This is nasty and uncomfortable for the dog and in some very rare cases may result in death.

Predisposing factors for catching and spreading kennel cough:

- Close contact with other dogs; for instance in kennels, backs of trucks, or at shoots
 - Exercise, excitement and exposure to cold air stimulates the cough and spreads the viruses and bacteria
 - High levels of humidity, such as foggy mornings, warm and poorly ventilated kennels
 - Stress situations such as boarding kennels, or lots of barking
- Mixing with dogs of uncertain or no vaccination history



The bacterial virus is inhaled as an aerosol which causes inflammation and damage to the cells lining the windpipe (trachea) and allows the bacterial part of kennel cough to move in. The bacteria are responsible for the paralysis of the small hairs (cilia) that line the airway which normally help to stop dust and foreign particles from entering the lungs.

The combination of the effects of the invaders results in irritation of the wind pipe and therefore the cough. Unfortunately the more the dog coughs, the more damage will occur to the airway, in severe coughing cases the animal's defences are so poor that there is a chance that bacteria will reach the lungs and a pneumonia will begin. The mucus production from the cough occurs because it is the body's only way to remove the build up of fluid that is present when the cilia are damaged.

Vaccinations

The kennel cough vaccination includes Bordetella as one of its components and in some cases also boosts protection against the para-influenza virus. The vaccine will last a year. Better protection is obtained by giving the vaccine up the nose which is generally not a problem for most dogs. There is a small amount of liquid used which is trickled into either one or both nostrils and it helps to stimulate a local protective response in the passages that air will first encounter when it enters the body

We have had a very high rate of kennel cough infections in the last few months, so we advise you get your dog vaccinated especially if you live in the Bledington, Kingham, Churchill area.