

## UNDERSTANDING KENNEL COUGH

Winter is fast approaching and with it comes the risk of your dog going down with this type of cough.

This particular cough is highly contagious, infectious disease that can arise from a variety of viruses, bacteria mycoplasmas and fungi.

Commonly caused by the parainfluenza virus and infectious bacteria.

Easily transmitted by respiratory secretions, such as cough, sneeze droplets and this travels through the air and infects other dogs in the vicinity.

This can be spread amongst dogs in close contact with one another, also in boarding kennels hence the name KENNEL COUGH.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF KENNEL COUGH

Dry cough, sneezing, snorting, gagging and periodically vomiting after a coughing episode.

If your dog is showing any of the above symptoms, you need to see your vet for a course of treatment.

ALL COUGHS are not necessarily Kennel Cough related. Your dog does not have to have been in a kennel or been in close proximity to other dogs to end up with Kennel Cough.

Your vet will decide what is the best treatment for the dog on hand. The disease will last for 7 – 14 days. Remember other dogs in your home or close proximity may go down with this as well.

## HOW CAN I PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING TO MY DOG?

Inoculations are available. Some will protect your dog from viruses whereas others will protect from bacteria. In all probability if you kennel your dogs when you are on leave, the Kennel concerned will require your dog has proof of having been inoculated against Kennel Cough.