

BORDETELLA BRONCHISEPTICA

Canine coughing originates from many sources. Many pets develop a harsh, deep cough after changes in the environment. This may be associated with vacations away from home, weather changes, boarding in pet kennels, or even a visit to the groomer.

When kenneled away from home, many dogs often do a lot of barking which can cause irritation in the throat making it more susceptible to bronchitis. The normal healthy body is very resistant to infection, but changes resulting from any form of stress (such as barking) can lower the body's resistance to disease allowing bronchitis to develop. There are many causes of bronchitis including allergy, viral, bacterial, and irritation. Many viruses and bacteria can be normal inhabitants of the pet's body causing no problem until stress lowers the resistance. Even though most boarding kennels do everything possible to keep your pet healthy, there are **SOME** factors, such as the stress of barking, which simply cannot be controlled. Fortunately, there is a vaccine available for one of the major causes of canine coughing, the so-called "kennel cough."

Bordetella bronchiseptica: is a highly contagious bacteria that is one of the major causes of the coughing syndrome. **VACCINATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

Vaccination is no guarantee that bronchitis will not develop but it certainly helps. Should your pet develop a cough after boarding or a visit to the groomer, please understand it probably is not the fault of the facility. It is impossible to control every bacterial presence.

Generally, boarding facilities require a bordetella vaccine two weeks prior to kenneling.