



## **Information on Kennel Cough**

- Kennel cough is highly infectious and is easily spread. It is a common misconception that it is only caught in kennels, but it can be caught anywhere dogs go.
- Kennel cough is spread from minute droplets in the air which are inhaled, or from direct contact. It is most contagious when dogs are coughing and sneezing, but it is also infectious during the incubation period of around 10 days.
- There is recent evidence to suggest that it can be passed from dog to cat and vice versa.
- The symptoms are sneezing (in the early stages), a cough and nasal discharges. In severe cases there may be a loss of appetite.
- Kennel cough could be compared to human 'flu' in that whilst it is very unpleasant, it is rarely fatal. Recovery from symptoms is usually complete in two to three weeks. However, severe cases in young puppies, older dogs, giant breeds or dogs with existing health problems may lead to pneumonia if the condition is not treated, and could lead to death.

Here is a website with more information, plus video footage of a dog with kennel cough:  
[http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_kennel\\_cough.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_kennel_cough.html)