

## Has your Dog had his or her Kennel Cough Vaccination?

### *What is Kennel Cough?*

Kennel Cough (Infectious Tracheobronchitis) is a highly contagious respiratory disease in dogs that causes episodes of a loud hacking cough. It often sounds like they something caught in their throat. It is brought on by dog-dog contact or by contamination of cages, kennels, bowls, personnel or grooming equipment with respiratory secretions.

### *Is my dog at risk?*

The incidence and severity of kennel cough can be reduced by vaccination. We recommend any dog that frequents a veterinary clinic, boarding or training facility, grooming shop, dog shows or public parks be vaccinated every six months. Ideally, all pets who frequent these facilities or parks should receive a kennel vaccine 2 weeks prior to visitation if the pet is due for the vaccine.

### *What are the symptoms?*

For most dogs, kennel cough is a mild problem that resolves spontaneously in 7-14 days. The primary symptom is a dry, hacking cough that ends with a gag or retch. The coughing episodes are aggravated by excitement, pulling at the leash or similar activity, which causes pressure on the throat. The dog should remain bright and happy, eat well and not run a fever even though they have a loud cough.

### *What should I do if my dog is coughing?*