

My pet needs a *what?*

Late for the airport and you had no idea your pet needed a Bordetella vaccine? Here's why it's important.

Bordetella, more commonly known as “kennel cough,” is an infectious bronchitis accompanied by a hacking cough. It's similar to a chest cold in humans. An animal usually remains active and maintains a normal appetite despite frequent coughing fits. However, in some animals and in some cases it has the potential to become much more serious.

1 Why is Bordetella vaccination required for boarding?

- ✓ Bordetella is fairly contagious
- ✓ An animal's respiratory system may be more susceptible due to: shipping stress, crowding stress, heavy dust exposure, cigarette smoke exposure, infectious agents (including the distemper virus), cold temperature or poor ventilation.
- ✓ Infection is common when animals visit clinics, kennels, parks, shelters, groomers and classes with warm environments and other animals.

2 Is Bordetella serious?

- ✓ Bordetella can be serious for very young puppies prone to severe cases of respiratory infections as it can progress to pneumonia, or for animals such as those that have spent time in a shelter or pet store—there is tremendous potential for serious consequences.
- ✓ Bordetella is often accompanied by at least one other infectious virus such as canine distemper, canine herpes or canine influenza.
- ✓ Most cases will go away on their own and recovery can be boosted with antibiotics, but if it becomes more acute, radiographs may be needed to determine its severity.

3 What are my vaccination options?

- ✓ The standard injectable vaccine covers all members of the kennel cough complex. It's a good option for puppies as long as two doses are given (approximately one month apart) after 4 months of age. Boosters are given annually.
- ✓ A nasal vaccine may be given as early as 3 weeks of age. The advantage over injectable may be that the local immunity is stimulated right at the site when the natural infection would try to take hold.
- ✓ Nasal vaccine generally provides faster immunity than injectable, taking four days to generate a solid immune response.
- ✓ If boarding is planned and more than six months have passed since the last vaccination, a booster should be given five days or more before the start of boarding.
- ✓ Vaccine is not useful in an animal already infected with kennel cough.

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