

Canine Cough (Kennel Cough) Information & Policy

At The Rustic Pet Lodge, your pet's health and safety are our top priorities. To help protect against illnesses like **canine cough (kennel cough)**, we require up-to-date **Bordetella vaccinations** and follow strict **cleaning and sanitation protocols**.

However, even with these precautions, **canine cough can still occur** — just like a human cold. The Bordetella vaccine helps reduce the risk and severity of symptoms, but no vaccine is 100% effective.

How It Spreads

Canine cough is **highly contagious** and can be transmitted through:

- Airborne droplets (coughing/sneezing)
- Direct dog-to-dog contact
- Contaminated surfaces (toys, bowls, sidewalks, etc.)

Dogs can pick up the virus at parks, vet clinics, grooming salons, or even during a walk.

What to Expect

- Symptoms: Dry cough, gagging, sneezing, nasal discharge, mild lethargy.
- Incubation: Symptoms may appear **up to 10 days after exposure**.
- Duration: Illness typically lasts **7–21 days**.
- Most cases are mild, but symptoms can be bothersome.

What to Do

- If your dog shows signs, **isolate them** and **contact your vet** immediately.
- Only a veterinarian can confirm a diagnosis.
- **Notify us** if your dog shows symptoms after a stay — this helps us protect others.

If a dog in our care shows signs, we will **isolate them** and **contact the owner for pickup** as soon as possible. Canine cough can occur in even the cleanest facilities. Please don't place blame — exposure often happens before symptoms appear. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping all pets healthy.

Print Sign & Date _____