



**NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE
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Information on Contagious diseases – Canine cough.

“Kennel cough” or “Canine cough” symptoms (usually coughing, unusually more severe) can be caused by many different organisms, each with its own epidemiology, onset of clinical signs, time for resolution, etc. Because of this variability it is very difficult to ascertain with absolute certainty if a dog has been exposed to an infectious agent and poses a risk to other dogs or not. There are vaccinations which will protect against some of the organisms, but not all.

Based on feedback received from the NZ Veterinary Association (Companion Animal section) the Agility Committee advice is:

- If your dog is coughing you should assume it is infected and could infect others.
- Dogs that are old or non-vaccinated are most at risk.
- To minimise the chance of a dog becoming infected ensure adequate ventilation, reduce stress, ensure good nutrition and give vaccination boosters during periods of risk.
- Dogs that are not coughing and have not had direct contact with a coughing dog, can be assumed to be clear and not infected.

Actions you can take to minimise the spread:-

- Don't take coughing dogs to events or club training until at least 2 weeks **after signs have gone**.
- Keep your dog away from coughing dogs.
- Don't let dogs share toys, balls, food bowls etc (saliva) .
- If your dog has been in direct contact with a coughing dog, but shows no symptoms, you should be cautious about allowing contact with other dogs for 2 weeks.
- Vaccinate dogs to give them some protection.

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