

BORDETELLA: DOES YOUR DOG REALLY NEED THE KENNEL COUGH VACCINE?

By [Jan Rasmusen](#) in [Vaccine Articles and News](#)

Your veterinarian, kennel owner, day care provider or groomer says your dog should/must be vaccinated against kennel cough, but you're trying not to over-vaccinate.

What should you do?

More and more, pet parents are finding another vet, kennel owner, day care provider or groomer — or keeping their dog at home! Vaccination is a serious medical procedure with significant potential risks. If that isn't enough, the vaccine is *unlikely* to prevent kennel cough. It can even produce kennel-cough like symptoms. The [WSAVA](#) Guidelines say, "Transient (3–10 days) coughing, sneezing, or nasal discharge may occur in a small percentage of vaccinates." It can also cause a serious anaphylactoid reaction. Look it up. You won't like it.



About kennels, day care providers and groomers: In general, if they have good ventilation and practice good hygiene, kennel cough shouldn't be an issue. Bordetella is *not* for dogs playing together in well-ventilated areas — like dog parks or backyards or living rooms.

Think of kennel cough as a canine cold, transmitted as human colds are transmitted — from an infected individual in close contact with another individual with compromised immunity. Like a cold, it is also considered a mild self-limiting disease. A veterinarian friend uses an OTC remedy called B & T Cough and Bronchial Syrup to treat the cough. For small dogs she uses the children's variety. See your vet for further treatment information.

If your service provider is afraid *your* dog will contract kennel cough at their establishment, offer to sign a letter of informed consent saying you've been informed of the risk and will waive liability. That should do it. *Should*. It's really just liability at issue, not your dog's overall health.

If the person insisting on the Bordetella vaccine is afraid *other* dogs at their establishment will contract kennel cough from your *unvaccinated* dog, this person clearly doesn't trust that the *vaccinated* dogs actually have immunity. If they don't believe the vaccine is protective, why insist that you or anyone else vaccinate?

Note: If you decide to give the vaccine, make sure it is the [intranasal](#) form, that is, given as nose drops, not injected. And give the vaccine at least a week before contact with other dogs, for the sake of both your dog and other dogs.

Don't take my word for any of this. Read what two vets and a PhD have to say about the Bordetella vaccine:

World-renowned vaccination scientist, [Dr. Ronald Schultz](#), says [emphasis is mine]: "Many animals receive "kennel cough" vaccines that include Bordetella and CPI and/or CAV-2 every 6 to 9 months **without evidence** that this frequency of vaccination is necessary or beneficial. **In contrast, other dogs are never vaccinated for kennel cough and disease is not seen.** CPI immunity lasts at least 3 years when given intranasally, and CAV -2 immunity lasts a minimum of 7 years parenterally for CAV-1. These two viruses in combination with Bordetella bronchiseptica are the agents most often associated with kennel cough, however, other factors play an important role in disease (e.g. stress, dust, humidity, molds, mycoplasma, etc.), thus **kennel cough is not a vaccine preventable disease** because of the complex factors associated with this disease. Furthermore, **this is often a mild to moderate self limiting disease.** I refer to it as the 'Canine Cold.'"

From [Dr. Eric Barchas](#), Dogster Vet Blog, "I generally do not recommend kennel cough vaccines unless dogs are staying in a boarding facility that requires them (and even then I don't truly recommend vaccination — instead, I recommend finding a facility that doesn't require them).

Jan Rasmusen is the national award-winning author of *Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care* and consumer advocate for dog lovers. Don't miss the in-depth articles (especially on vaccination) at her [Truth4dogs blog](#) or follow [K9Author](#) on Twitter.

Let Them Eat Dirt

November 1st 12pm-4pm

Spend an afternoon with holistic veterinarian Dr. Marlice Vonck, founder of BioStar Tigger Montague and master trainer Karen Quillen. Topics to discuss include:

- Keeping your pets healthy and happy naturally
- The benefits of a Grain Free/Raw diet
- Dietary supplements
- Effects of poor diet and health on training and behavior
- Q & A session

*Goodie bags with free dehydrated food samples, treats and more

This event is for humans only. Please RSVP to allthingspawssiblecville@gmail.com or 434-249-9579



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11/1 - Adolescent Classes Begin

11/1 - Let Them Eat Dirt 12pm-4pm

12/14 - Stocking Stuffer Open House



***“In dog training
jerk is a noun
not a verb.”***

- Dr. Dennis Fetko

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the Shops at Stonefield!
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