



Why does my dog need twice yearly Kennel Cough (bordetella) vaccination for admission to Valley Inn for Pets?

Infectious respiratory disease complex, other wise known as “Kennel Cough” is a common problem wherever dogs congregate in close contact. The hacking, choking cough that can develop as a result of infection is both uncomfortable for affected pets and worrisome for their owners.

Our facility and procedures are designed to reduce the incidence of respiratory infections in our guests. Unfortunately, even under the best of circumstances *it is not possible to eliminate these infections completely.*

Our goal at Valley Inn for Pets is to do whatever we can to keep the incidence of respiratory infection in our facility at a minimum and ***to keep your pet healthy!!***

The requirement for twice yearly vaccination is a result of both our own experience with less frequent vaccination schedules and subsequent consultation with experts in canine infectious diseases.

When our facility opened in 1996, we required only once yearly bordetella vaccination. Unfortunately, with once yearly vaccination, we suffered from regular outbreaks of respiratory disease. We then sought the advice of infectious disease experts on how best to combat this problem. Among other recommendations, ***twice yearly vaccination was strongly advised.***

While there are no universally accepted recommendations for the frequency of bordetella vaccination, it is known, and our experiences have since confirmed, that the more frequent administration of intra nasal vaccines results in a better ability to fight off respiratory infections. Research indicates that nasal passage immunity in previously vaccinated dogs actually increases in a matter of hours after repeat nasal vaccination! ***

Also supporting our policy are recent American Animal Hospital Association vaccine guidelines for sheltered pets that include the recommendation that *bordetella be administered every six to 12 months as indicated.*

Most importantly, the incidence of respiratory disease at our facility has decreased dramatically since we adopted the twice-yearly requirement.



We hope that this information helps to explain why we have this policy in place. It is truly one of prevention as we try to keep your pet both happy and healthy!

Please feel free to contact me directly at 413-584-1223 if you have questions or concerns regarding our bordetella policy.

Ted A Diamond, DVM

Director of Valley Veterinary Hospital and Valley Inn for Pets

******Ideally, if boarding is planned and your dog has either never been vaccinated for bordetella, or it has been more than 6 months since the last vaccine, vaccination should take place 5 days or more before the start of boarding to provide optimum immunity.***