



K9 Flu Information for NPR Families

Because We're Family - Your Pup's Health is Our Priority

At Newcastle Pet Resort, your pup's health and safety comes first. Always. #poochpriority

We want to have an honest conversation with you about K9 flu (also called canine cough or tracheobronchitis) - what it is, what to look for, and how we handle it together as a family.

What is K9 Flu?

K9 flu is like the common cold for dogs - it's a highly contagious upper-respiratory virus that spreads through the air. Here's exactly what you need to know:

The Timeline:

- **Incubation period:** 3-7 days (your pup can be contagious before showing symptoms)
- **Main symptom:** A gagging cough that sounds worse than it usually is
- **Duration:** Anywhere from a few days to several weeks
- **Other signs:** Sometimes sneezing and runny nose

Here's what we want you to understand: Just like when your kids get sick at school, this cough is annoying but rarely serious. However, it can lower your pup's resistance to other illnesses, so we watch them closely.

Can It Be Cured? The Honest Answer

No - and we're not going to sugarcoat this for you. Just like your common cold, K9 flu has to run its course.

What your vet might prescribe:

- Antibiotics (to prevent secondary infections)
- Cough suppressants (to reduce excessive coughing)
- Rest and TLC (the most important medicine!)

What we do: We monitor every pup closely and contact you immediately if we notice any concerning changes.

Where Do Dogs Catch K9 Flu?

Here's the truth - **anywhere dogs gather**. It's not just about kennels or daycare:

- ✓ **Higher risk places:** Kennels, dog parks, vet clinics, pet shops, doggy daycare, dog shows
- ✓ **But also:** Your own backyard (airborne viruses travel far), walking past other dogs, leash-free areas

Why is the risk higher at places like NPR? Two reasons:

1. **Proximity** - more dogs in one space
2. **Excitement stress** - new environments can temporarily lower immunity (just like kids at school)

The good news: The more often your pup visits social places like ours, the stronger their immunity becomes. During outbreaks, only a small percentage of dogs are actually affected.

Vaccination - Your Best Defence

Yes, your pup can be vaccinated!

Your C5 vaccination (required for all NPR pups) includes protection against:

- Parainfluenza
- Adenovirus type 2

Important to understand: There are over 100 strains of this virus. The vaccine protects against the most common ones, but not all. Think of it like the flu shot for humans - great protection, but not 100% foolproof.

Additional protection: Some vets recommend intranasal Bordetella vaccination for social pups. Chat with your vet about what's right for your family.

What We Do at NPR - Our Promise to You

We can't prevent airborne viruses - no facility can, and we won't pretend otherwise. But here's exactly what we DO:

🛡️ **Before your pup arrives:**

- Require current C5 vaccination (no exceptions)
- Refuse obviously sick dogs
- Conduct thorough Facility Entrance Assessments

Every single day:

- Hospital-grade disinfectants throughout the facility
- Constant supervision by trained Canine Carers
- Immediate isolation if any pup shows symptoms
- Quick veterinary attention when needed

If K9 flu appears:

- Immediate notification to all families
 - Clear guidance on what to watch for
 - Honest updates about the situation
 - Support for affected families
-

What to Watch For at Home

Contact us if you notice:

- Persistent gagging cough
- Loss of appetite lasting more than 24 hours
- Lethargy or unusual behaviour
- Difficulty breathing
- Thick nasal discharge

Remember: Some dogs with parainfluenza don't look sick but are still contagious. We're trained to spot the subtle signs. Some dogs may not show signs until they get home (when they are at complete rest)

If Your Pup Gets K9 Flu - We're Here for You

First - don't panic. Most dogs recover completely with rest and care.

What happens next:

1. **Immediate isolation** from other pups
2. **Vet consultation** (this is not an emergency)
3. **Daily updates** on your pup's condition
4. **Home care guidance** for recovery
5. **Return-to-play assessment** when they're better

Financial responsibility: As outlined in our policies, families are responsible for veterinary costs. We believe in transparency - no surprises.

The Bottom Line - We're Family


We've been caring for Hunter Valley families for over 16 years. We've seen K9 flu come and go, and we've helped hundreds of pups through it safely.

Our commitment: We'll love your pup like family, watch them closely, and communicate honestly about everything we see. Because that's what family does.

Questions? Call us anytime. We'd rather have a conversation than leave you wondering.

Newcastle Pet Resort

575 Cabbage Tree Road, Williamtown NSW 2318

 0413 665 781

 www.newcastlepetresort.com.au

"We are family. Confident pups, happy family."

This information sheet is provided in partnership with the Pet Industry Association of Australia. We're proud members committed to the highest standards of pet care.