



### **Important Information Regarding Kennel Cough Vaccination**

We will be vaccinating your dog using a live attenuated vaccine called Versican Plus Bb. This vaccine is administered orally, and as such can be administered easily to most dogs.

A live attenuated vaccine is one in which a weakened version of the bacteria, in this case *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*, is administered to generate an effective immune response.

It is important that only healthy dogs are vaccinated.

The use of this product at the same time as other vaccines has not been tested in clinical trials. However, administering alongside your dog's regular booster may be more convenient and help support social distancing at this time. We will be happy to discuss this with you at your appointment.

Vaccinated dogs may shed the weakened strain of *Bordetella bronchiseptica* for up to 35 days from their mouth and nose, and for at least 70 days in faeces.

Occasionally, dogs may show mild cold-like symptoms for a few days after vaccination.

In the rare event that dogs do not allow us to administer this vaccine without significant breach of our social distancing policy we may need to postpone vaccination until distancing requirements are fully relaxed.

### **Additional precautions during Covid-19**

Manufacturers of both the traditional intranasal vaccine and the new oral vaccine for kennel cough warn that dogs may shed the weakened (attenuated) form of *Bordetella* vaccine for several weeks after administration. Therefore, at this time we are recommending increased caution.

It is important to wash your hands after handling a dog who has received a kennel cough vaccination. This should continue during the entire oronasal bacterial shedding period (7 weeks).

*Bordetella bronchiseptica* has been identified as a pathogen in a small number of immunocompromised people but none of these cases have been demonstrated to be related to the weakened bacteria present in dog vaccines.

People who suffer from conditions that weaken their immune systems, those who are at known increased risk from contracting coronavirus and people who have or have had Covid-19, should avoid all contact with dogs vaccinated for kennel cough for at least 7 weeks after administration, to avoid contact with the vaccine form of *Bordetella*.

We also recommend that dogs are kept on leads in public to prevent direct contact with other dogs, and all faeces is disposed of safely during the shedding period.

