

PET HEALTH

brought to you by



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DOG FLU

Dog Flu is a relatively new disease which can be caused by two different canine influenza viruses. Two different strains of canine influenza virus have been isolated in the US. Canine influenza virus H3N8 was first reported in 2003, and H3N2 emerged in early 2015. These strains are not related. Therefore, dogs at risk should be vaccinated against both strains.

In March 2015, the outbreak of H3N2 in the Chicago area affected over 1,000 dogs. This virus had never been seen previously in the US. It is of avian origin and closely related to the South Korean canine influenza H3N2 strain, most likely brought to this country by rescue dogs being saved from the Korean “meat markets”.

Dog Flu can pass between dogs through coughing or sneezing, or by coming into physical contact with other dogs. It can also be transferred indirectly—like if a dog touches or plays with objects that were touched by infected dogs (food bowls or toys). Humans can even transfer the virus through dogs if they do not properly sanitize after touching an infected dog, or if their clothing isn't cleaned.

Dog Flu cannot be distinguished from other causes of acute respiratory disease based on clinical signs alone. A dog can shed the virus for 2-4 days before any symptoms are present. Symptoms can last anywhere from 7-10 days depending on the dog, with preliminary data showing intermittent symptoms for up to 24 days. In many cases, Dog Flu presents mild symptoms. But in some cases, including dogs that are high risk (very young, very old, or dogs with other health conditions), more severe outcomes can happen.

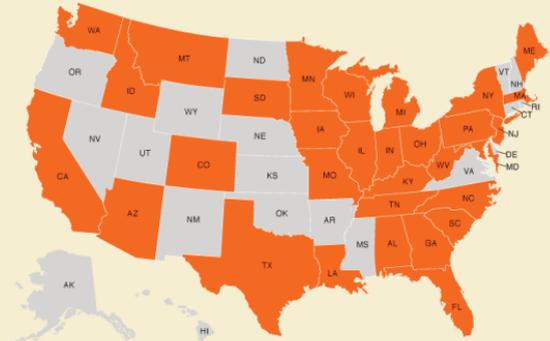
Dogs confirmed or suspected of infection should stay at home for the protection of other dogs. A veterinarian should be contacted regarding appropriate care and evaluation.

Once in the clinic, a veterinarian may test for the virus. There is no treatment specifically for Dog Flu, so the focus is supportive care. Dogs with mild infection may not require any intervention. Some dogs develop a more serious course and may require hospitalization for administration of intravenous fluids, supplemental feeding, and other supportive measures. Dogs that develop pneumonia may require antibiotics for secondary bacterial infection. Be sure to keep the dog at home for several weeks until he or she has made a full recovery, and try to avoid exposing other dogs. Because there is no treatment for Dog Flu, prevention through canine vaccination is very important. Vaccines

against Dog Flu (H3N8 and H3N2) are available and can help to control the spread and minimize the impact of Dog Flu.

It was announced last week that dogs in the Memphis, TN area have tested positive. This virus has been confirmed in 31 states so far. Our boarding kennel will now be requiring this vaccine for dogs that board or daycare. We will share more information on our website and our Facebook page when we get more.

(info taken from Cornell and Merck)



Please contact Jonesboro Family Pet Hospital or your veterinarian for further information on the Prevention & Treatment of Dog Flu