

# Kennel Connection



## Canine Influenza

Effective April 1, 2018 we will be requiring all dogs that board with us have a canine influenza vaccination. This particular vaccination is a series of two boosters. Although there have been no reported cases of canine influenza here in our area, there have been many cases throughout the nation and because of the seriousness of the disease, we feel it is the best thing we can do to help protect your precious pets.

Canine influenza, or the “dog flu”, is a highly contagious viral infection affecting dogs as well as cats. At present, two strains of canine influenza virus have been identified in the US: H3N8 and H3N2. Both these strains can be traced to influenza strains known to infect species other than dogs. At some point, these viruses acquired the ability to infect dogs and be transmitted from dog to dog. Since being detected in 2004, Canine H3N8 influenza has been identified in dogs in most US states and the District of Columbia. The Canine H3N2 influenza was first identified in the US in March 2015. Prior to this, reports of

Canine H3N2 influenza were restricted to South Korea, China and Thailand. By May 2017, Canine H3N2 influenza was diagnosed in dogs in at least ten states across the country.

Canine influenza is transmitted through droplets or aerosols containing respiratory secretions from coughing, barking and sneezing. Dogs in close contact with infected dogs in places such as kennels, groomers, day care facilities, and shelters are at an increased risk. Canine influenza can be spread indirectly through objects such as kennels, food and water bowls, collars and leashes or people that have been in contact with an infected dog. The virus can remain viable – alive and able to infect – on surfaces for up to 48 hours, on clothing for 24 hours and on hands for 12 hours.

H3N8 has an incubation period of 1 – 5 days, with clinical signs in most cases appearing 2 to 3 days after exposure. Dogs infected with H3N2 may start showing respiratory signs between 2 to 8 days after

infection. Dogs are most contagious during the incubation period.

Virtually all dogs exposed to canine influenza virus become infected, with approximately 80% developing clinical signs of disease. The 20% of infected dogs that don't exhibit clinical signs of disease can still spread the infection.

Canine influenza virus causes an acute respiratory infection in dogs. There is no “season” for canine influenza and infections can occur any time of year. Canine influenza virus often resembles canine infectious tracheobronchitis, also known as “kennel cough”.

The majority of infected dogs exhibit the mild form of canine influenza. The most common clinical sign is a cough that persists for 10 – 12 days, despite treatment with antibiotics and cough suppressants. Affected dogs may have a soft, moist cough or a dry cough similar to that induced by “kennel cough”. Nasal and/or ocular discharge, sneezing, lethargy and anorexia may also be

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**Did You Know?**

- Our local Spot Clinic, a spade and neuter clinic located beside the Humane Society of Parkersburg, offers low cost vaccine clinics the first Saturday of every month. Costs for each vaccine is only \$15 each! The Spot Clinic's phone number is 304-917-4275

## Canine Influenza (continued)

observed. Many dogs develop a purulent nasal discharge and fever. Some dogs are more severely affected and exhibit clinical signs of pneumonia, such as a high grade fever and increased respiratory rate and effort. Although most dogs recover without incident, deaths due to H3N2 have been reported.

Canine influenza cannot be diagnosed solely by clinical signs because these clinical signs are also present with other canine respiratory illnesses. Tests

are available to properly diagnose and identify strains of canine influenza virus. Veterinary expertise is required to determine treatment options and the best course of treatment. Most dogs recover from canine influenza within two to three weeks. To prevent transmission of the virus, dogs infected with canine influenza, as well as other dogs in the household, should be isolated for four weeks.

Canine influenza virus is not widespread in the dog population and

many dogs have never been exposed to the virus. 80% of exposed animals develop the disease, and the death rate of animals exposed is 10%.

Vaccines are available for both strains of canine influenza. Dogs that may benefit from canine influenza vaccination include those that receive the Bordetella vaccine, because the risk groups are similar.

### Local Veterinarian Offices Offering the Canine Influenza Vaccination:

The following veterinarian offices in our area will accept any customers, not just their existing customers, to give the canine influenza vaccination: Parkersburg Veterinary Hospital, Vienna Veterinary Clinic, VCA Dudley Avenue and the Spot Clinic.

The following veterinarian offices offer the vaccination, but only for their existing customers: Colonial Animal Hospital, Colegate Animal Hospital, and Mineral Wells Vet Clinic.

If your veterinarian office does not offer the vaccine yet, request it. Help stop the spread of this illness and help us keep the pets of the Mid Ohio Valley healthy.

## Common Ear Problems in Dogs

Most canine ear problems stem from an allergy of some type, the two most prevalent being airborne and food allergies. As in humans, most airborne allergies occur seasonally, which means a dog with allergies is more prone to ear problems March through September. The simplest things a dog owner can do to help their pet during this season is to bathe them regularly, being careful not to get soap or water inside their ears, and to remove the allergen from their environment. For example, if your dog is allergic to grass, walk them on the sidewalk or if pollen seems to be the culprit, keep them indoors as much as possible during these months. You can also administer over the counter antihistamines, but please speak to your vet before doing so to ensure you are giving the right dosage. Food allergies will affect dogs as

long as the offending ingredient is part of their diet and can continue to be bothersome weeks after consumption. The most common food allergies for dogs are beef, chicken, eggs and dairy. Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best route to go to determine if food allergies is actually the problem. Bacterial infections can also affect a dog's coat and ears. There are anti-biotic and non-antibiotic treatments for bacterial infections. Yeast infections are another common cause of ear problems in dogs. Almost all cases of yeast infections stem from allergies. Yeast infections are easily treated with systemic and topical antifungal medications and usually clear up in 2 or 3 weeks if properly treated. Mites are a microscopic insect that can drive dogs (and cats) crazy! Although they aren't as troublesome for dogs as they

are for cats, a dog that lives with a cat can be susceptible to mites. Ear mites can be easily treated with anti-parasitic medications applied either systemically or in the ear canal directly. Ear infections in dogs have symptoms that include head shaking or head tilting, ear odor, vigorous scratching, lack of balance, redness of the ear canal, swelling of the outer portion of the ear and a brown, yellow or bloody discharge from their ear. Always take your dog to the veterinarian if you think they have an ear infection. In most cases, cleaning and medicating the ear canal will quickly clear up an infection. Surgery can be necessary for chronic infections or if forceful head shaking results in the rupture of a vessel within the outer part of the ear.

## Dog Myth Busters

Think you know everything you need to know about dogs? Here are some common myths about dogs that might actually surprise you.

- **Only male dogs hump other dogs.** Not true! Research tells us that “humping” is actually an act of dominance and even female dogs have been known to exhibit this behavior. It is perfectly normal.
- **Indoor dogs don't need heartworm prevention.** As gross as it is to talk about, mosquitos spread heartworms and they can land on your pet inside or outside. Heartworm prevention is very important to your dog's health. A dog infected with heartworms faces a long, expensive treatment process, and that's only if the damage isn't too severe when found.
- **Dogs eat grass only if they are going to be sick.** Recent research indicates that simply put, dogs just like to eat grass. Some vets do believe that dogs will intentionally consume large amounts of grass to induce vomiting if they feel unwell or have eaten something toxic, but this should not be consistent behavior. Also, if your grass has been treated with chemicals, it could actually be harmful to your pet.
- **A dog will be fine in the car as long as you crack the window.** Never, ever, ever do this! Even if you think you will only be a minute! Even in cool temperatures, the heat inside a vehicle can rise quickly, and this is even more dangerous in the hot, summer months. You wouldn't put your dog inside a hot oven now would you? In some states, it is actually against the law to leave your pet inside the car.
- **Dogs are color blind.** The canine retina indicates that dogs can see some colors, primarily blues, yellows, greens, and shades of gray.
- **A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's mouth.** While it's true most of the germs in a dog's mouth are dog-specific and harmless, that does not include where your dog's mouth might have been. Licking the concrete, eating grass, lapping up dirty rain water, sampling the neighbor's dog's poop and all other kinds of undigestibles you would never eat yourself can make their way onto your face or in your mouth. (Can we all just say EWWW Gross!!)
- **A wagging tail is a sign of a happy dog.** This isn't always true. Tail wagging can be a sign of fear, anxiety or impending aggression. The tail may wag slower, erratically or while inverted on a dog's back. Look at the total body language before approaching a dog you don't know.
- **Female dogs need to have one litter of puppies before they can be spayed.** This myth doesn't help the overpopulation problem that animal shelters across the country see on a daily basis. There is absolutely no evidence that proves this method offers any health benefits, however there is ample evidence that spaying reduces the frequency of future health problems while reducing overpopulation.
- **Certain breeds of dogs are all aggressive and will attack anyone given the chance.** Any dog, and we repeat, any dog, can be aggressive. There have been studies done that conclude that no dog is born inherently dangerous or vicious and the American Temperament Test Society results show some of these “aggressive and dangerous” dogs higher up on the friendly end than other dogs we consider to be harmless.
- **Dogs get all the exercise they need in the backyard.** Dogs go outside to do their business and maybe investigate around the yard, but they are natural pack animals and want to be by your side. Unless you are outside in the yard with them encouraging them to play and exercise, plan to take your dog for a daily walk, hike, swim or any activity that gets them up and moving. Regular exercise helps promote stable weight and increase health benefits.
- **You can't teach an old dog new tricks.** This is probably the oldest myth about dogs and it's still not true. Many older dogs may suffer limited hearing or vision that prevents them from learning or following commands easily, but age is not a determining factor for tricks or training.
- **A dry or warm nose is a sign your dog is sick.** Dog noses are not always cool and wet, and occasional dryness is perfectly normal. There are many reasons your dog may have a dry nose, but a runny nose, colorful discharge or a crusty build up is not good, so head to the vet if you notice any of those symptoms.
- **Dogs hate mail carriers.** Most dogs are protective of their family and their home and the dog recognizes the mailman as a stranger that should keep their distance. We hope your mailman doesn't take it seriously, but if possible, try to socialize your dog to the mailman, letting them know they are safe and no threat to them or your family.
- **Dogs hate cats.** While it's true that dogs may give chase and the cat may hiss and flick a paw or two, this myth is false (most of the time) and easy to disprove. It is possible to have a dog and a cat in the same household and to live in peace and harmony.

# CAMPER OF THE MONTH

## Winding Road Kennel



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Parkersburg WV 26104

Phone: 304-428-3518

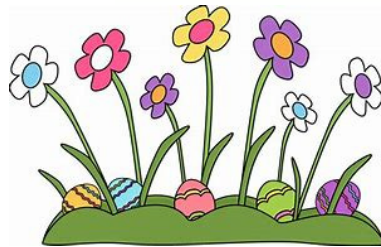
Fax: 304-428-3545

Email: [info@windingroadkennel.com](mailto:info@windingroadkennel.com)

## Your Pets Home Away From Home

Check us out on  
Facebook!

## Aspen Farkosh



## Kennel News

It's March already! Wow, spring is actually almost here! February brought too much snow, rain and mud. The winter weather certainly kept us busy! We just re-rocked our parking lot and are in the middle of remodeling and upgrading our groom shop. New fencing around both of our kennel yards are complete. In other words, we are ready for some warmer weather!!

We do have some upcoming events this month. We will be participating in the Mid-Ohio Valley Easter Parade on Saturday, March 24. We plan to build a float so look for us in the parade line up!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 31. Unfortunately, this event is not a public event, it is for our doggie campers only. So, if you want your dog to participate, make

boarding or day care reservations to get him in on all the fun! Who knows, they might even be on TV or the front page of the local newspaper!

This year is the 10th Annual Woof Fest at Mountwood Park and it is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th from noon to 4. If you have never attended this event, you should plan to come out this year. It's always a great time! For any running enthusiasts, Woof Fest offers a Run a Race with Your Dog event you won't want to miss! You can get more information on this event at [www.friendsofmountwoodpark.com](http://www.friendsofmountwoodpark.com).

As we mentioned on the front page, we will now be requiring all dogs that board with us to have the Canine Influenza vaccination. The requirements now to board here with are: all dogs must be up

to date on Rabies, DHLPP, Bordetella, and the Canine Influenza vaccinations. Cats are required to have Rabies and Distemper vaccinations.

Spring and summer are super busy around here in both the kennel and the groom shop so start making your vacation reservations soon! Our groom shop is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Be sure to like us on Facebook and watch our page for special deals, contests, and more!

Don't forget—Daylight Savings starts on March 11. St. Patrick's Day is Saturday, March 17th. National Puppy Day is Friday, March 23rd, and Good Friday is March 30th. Easter falls on April 1st this year—which should be pretty interesting!