

West Volusia Kennel Club Statement on Canine Influenza Virus (H3N2 strain)

In the midst of the Canine Flu outbreak we are facing, we are cancelling our Conformation classes for the next three weeks. We will start our class back up on June 20th. We have sanitized the room already and this week will be sanitizing our mats.

The information below is to inform you all of what you can do for the safety of your dogs, and how you can prevent it at home.

It is a time you will want to avoid dog parks, boarding and grooming facilities if possible.

The information is straight from our Veterinarian, who is getting information from direct sources such as infectious disease specialists, and keeping in touch with UF on their findings.

This way you can avoid the hype that has surrounded the Canine Flu outbreak on Facebook and other social media platforms.

The strain of flu we are dealing with is H3N2 (the same as the outbreak in Chicago) This strain has a 5% mortality rate, a 25% a-symptomatic carrier rate, a 5-7 day incubation period, and has a shed of 28 days after symptoms have stopped. So, what do all of these numbers mean to us?

It means the following:

Dogs that have been EXPOSED to the virus (attended a show where a sick dog was present, or where other dogs had contracted the virus, or if they have had contact with an infectious dog) need to be on quarantine for 28 days. All dogs exposed but NOT showing symptoms need to be treated as a-symptomatic carriers, and should be kept on the 28 day quarantine.

This may seem extensive, but it is called for to stop the outbreak. That means any dogs that attended the DeLand, FL or Perry, GA shows stay home for 28 days, restrict their contact with other dogs, symptoms or not. Start all dogs in the house on an immune system boosting supplement routine, as dogs with better immune systems have a better chance of getting the less severe symptoms such as fevers and possibly having it develop into pneumonia.

- We were recommended by our veterinarian to use the following:
Pro-biotic: we recommend Pro-biotic Max by Natures Pharmacy for everyone, or BenneBac for infected dogs (Pro-biotic Max can be doubled in times of stress)
- Immune Booster: we recommend Immuno Guard by Natures Pharmacy
- Vitamin C: 500-1,000 MG per day
- Vitamin B Complex: Use the human dose

Although this strain does not lend itself to being airborne, and is not hardy outside of a host, a dog shedding the virus can do so up to a 20 ft radius. Our recommendation for that is to run an ultrasonic diffuser in your kennel or dog area, using Doterra's On Guard. It has strong antiviral and antibacterial properties to help kill anything airborne. This strain can be killed with your normal cleaners, bleach, kennel cleaner, etc.

Bringing it home is also something you should be aware of. Groomers, Trainers, anybody having contact with dogs outside of your home, be sure to disinfect shoes, change your clothing, and wash your hands before having contact with your dogs.

Remember, if your dog starts showing symptoms take them to your vet ASAP