

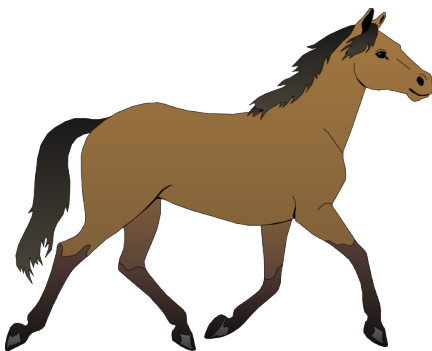
Puppy Love

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Oh, No, It's the Flu!



Believe it or not, your little doxie can get the flu and it all started with a horse. The H3N8 equine influenza virus has been known to exist in horses for more than forty years. In 2004, however, an unknown respiratory illness in dogs led to an investigation that showed this respiratory illness was caused by the equine influenza H3N8 virus. Scientists believe this virus jumped species, from horses to dogs, and has adapted to not only cause the illness in dogs, but also, the ability to spread the disease. This illness is now considered a dog-specific, or canine H3N8 virus. But, the flu doesn't stop there. It also includes our feathered friends. Avian influenza H3N2 is a virus that occurs naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and has adapted to infect dogs. Experts believe H3N2 is a new disease in the United States and was brought into the country by just a single dog in 2015. Forty-six states have reported cases of canine influenza. Although, dog flu is a contagious disease there have been no reports of the disease being transmitted to humans. However, the CDC and its partners are monitoring the canine influenza H2N8 and H3N2 closely, but consider it a low threat to humans.



Transmission of the dog flu is easier than you think. All it takes is a mere touch of a contaminated bowl or a pet from an exposed human hand.

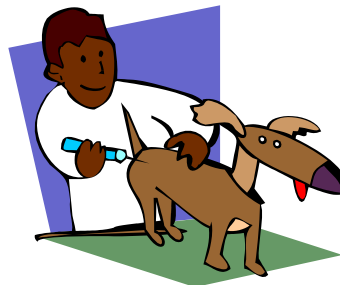


Isabella dashing through the snow in South Carolina.



When is it time to go to the vet?

If your dog has a cough, discharge from nose or eyes, fever, loss of appetite, or lethargy he needs to be seen by your veterinarian. The dogs most vulnerable to the dog flu are those that are involved in dog friendly venues like: boarding facilities, groomers, doggy day care, dog parks, sports where dogs co-mingle. Even a walk around your friendly neighborhood can expose your dog to the virus.



It's No Fun to be Sick!

Dog flu is a highly contagious virus. All it takes is one exposure to the virus for your dog to contract dog flu. Play is safe, talk with your veterinarian about having your little doxie vaccinated.