

Keep Your Dog Healthy!

Tips for avoiding upper respiratory infections

Upper respiratory infections, including viruses like canine influenza, have been spreading in the Dallas area. Keep your pet safe by avoiding dog parks, doggy daycares, play dates, and boarding facilities at this time.



WHAT ARE UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS?

An upper respiratory infection is an ailment that can affect the lungs, air passages, throat, and nasal cavities. It's often caused by bacteria or a virus, and it's highly contagious. Fortunately, it's typically not life-threatening unless it leads to complications like pneumonia. One of the upper respiratory illnesses currently spreading is canine influenza virus (CIV), commonly known as the canine flu.

Source: ASPCA



HOW DO UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS SPREAD?

Almost all dogs are susceptible to URI. A vaccine for CIV exists but is currently unavailable at many clinics due to supply chain delays. The CIV vaccine does not provide 100% protection. URIs spread faster inside shelters and boarding facilities because of the number of dogs housed closely together. URIs, including CIV, are spread mainly by respiratory droplets produced during coughing and sneezing by infected dogs or through contact with contaminated surfaces. Dogs coughing or showing other signs of respiratory illness should be isolated from other dogs and cats and see a veterinarian as soon as possible. Clothing, equipment, surfaces, and hands should be cleaned and disinfected after exposure to dogs showing signs of URI.

Source: Centers for Disease Control



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS?

The signs of URI in dogs are cough, runny nose, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite. Not all dogs will show signs of illness. If your dog begins showing symptoms, please consult your veterinarian immediately. Most dogs recover within 2 to 3 weeks. However, some dogs may develop secondary bacterial infections, which may lead to more severe illness and pneumonia. If your dog is under treatment and is either not getting better or seems to be getting worse, notify your veterinarian immediately.

Source: Centers for Disease Control



HOW ARE UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS TREATED?

It is important to keep your dog hydrated and comfortable while their body fights the infection. Your veterinarian may prescribe broad-spectrum antibiotics if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

www.BeDallas90.org

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