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Summertime News

July 2009

WHAT IS CANINE INFLUENZA?



Recently, we received information that there have been some documented cases of Canine influenza in the Allentown and Philadelphia areas. We want to tell you what we know and what we're doing regarding this issue. We will ask that you keep your dog in the vehicle for just a moment while you tell us you're here and then have you bring your dog directly into an exam room. So, what is Canine influenza? Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs that is caused by a virus. The canine influenza virus is closely related to the virus that causes equine influenza and it is thought that the equine influenza virus mutated to produce the canine influenza virus.

Two clinical syndromes have been seen in dogs infected with the canine influenza virus—a mild form of the disease and a more severe form that is accompanied by pneumonia.

- *About the mild form*—Dogs suffering with the mild form of canine influenza develop a soft, moist cough that persists for 10 to 30 days. Some dogs have a dry cough similar to the "kennel cough" caused by *Bordetella bronchiseptica*/parainfluenza

virus complex. For this reason, canine influenza virus infections are frequently mistaken for "kennel cough." Dogs with the mild form of influenza may also have a thick nasal discharge, which is usually caused by a secondary bacterial infection.

- *About the severe form*—Dogs with the severe form of canine influenza develop high fevers (104°F to 106°F) and have clinical signs of pneumonia, such as increased respiratory rates and effort. Pneumonia may be due to a secondary bacterial infection.

Because this is a newly emerging disease, almost all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and have no immunity. Virtually all dogs that are exposed to the virus become infected and nearly 80% show clinical signs of disease. ***Fortunately, most affected dogs have the mild form.***

As with any disease caused by a virus, treatment is largely supportive. Good animal care practices and nutrition assist dogs in mounting an effective

immune response. In the milder form of the disease, a thick green nasal discharge, which most likely represents a secondary bacterial infection, usually resolves quickly after treatment with a broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial. In the more severe form of the disease, pneumonia is thought to often be caused by bacterial super infection, and responds best to hydration (sometimes via intravenous administration of fluids) and a broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial.

A vaccination will be available in July and should be considered if your dog goes to kennels, daycare facilities, etc. and will be required for Silver Maple's kennel/day care facilities. Additionally, a broader recommendation for this vaccination will be considered as we learn more about this virus and based on individual situations.

If you have any questions, give us a call. We are staying informed as to the spread of this virus.

Calendar

Arthritis Awareness Month	July
PA Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival	Sept. 18, 19 20
Spay Neuter Clinic	Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan
Dental Month	Feb. 2010
Parasite Awareness Month	April 2010

DO YOU KNOW????

You can purchase all of our flea and tick preventative in single doses!!! That's right...if you only need one dose, just ask us for one. You don't need to purchase an entire box...like you would at a store or an online pet "pharmacy".

Have you noticed any changes in your pet's personality?

Has your pet shown any aggression toward people or animals including lunging, growling, nipping or biting?

Has your pet begun inappropriately urinating or defecating in the house?

Is your pet keeping you up at night?

Has your pet shown any fears, anxieties, or phobias that concern you?



Anxiety or "bad dog"?

Dogs are highly social pack animals that perform behaviors to maintain social cohesion (keep pack together, warn of danger, etc). Dogs need enrichment or they will create their own amusement!

So, don't weaken the bond with your pet by erroneously assuming that behavior problems are caused by jealousy, spite and anger. Don't assume



that submissive behavior indicates guilt, which can lead to inap-

propriate punishment. Do pet-proof your house to prevent undesirable behaviors and do provide appropriate physical and mental outlets for your pet. Animals learn through behavior modification and positive reinforcement of desired behaviors.

Cars and Their Danger to Our Pets

There are many reasons why cars are dangerous to our pets. Obviously, the first and foremost is the dog or cat that runs off and gets hit. Sadly, it also happens that a beloved pet does not have to run off for this to happen. Please make sure to check that your dog or cat is not lying under your vehicle before you drive away. Often, during these hot days, an

It is estimated that as many as 17% of dogs in this country suffer from some sort of anxiety, which can have serious consequences...not just for your pet, but for you, as well. The bond you've created with your dog can be compromised when dogs act out their pain and suffering on their environment and their owners.

A dog may experience separation anxiety and anxiety around loud noises (fireworks and thunderstorms) or changes in their environment. Clinical signs may include destruction, defecation, urination, loud and disruptive vocalization, licking and salivation. Often, a dog will start to display one or more of these signs many minutes prior to the onset of a storm.

Some behavior modification techniques would include positive reinforcement and NOT reprimanding undesirable behavior. Reward calm behavior by spending time with your dog ONLY when he or she is calm and ignore attention-seeking behaviors. It is important to include daily walks and playtime, if possible.



If you believe that your dog is suffering from anxiety, we can help. We know that this can be a frustrating issue to deal with and anxiety can be caused by a variety of reasons. Fortunately, there are behavior modification techniques that can be explored and there are medications that can be very useful. So, give us a call to set up an appointment for a consultation...and, remember, to confine your dog during a thunderstorm or fireworks so they don't run away from you.

make sure they're not exposed to this type of situation.



animal will seek shelter in a shaded area and under a vehicle provides just that spot. Also, please never allow your pet to stay in a car unattended. The temperature in a car on a hot day can soar to 120+ degrees in a very short period of time. Taking your dog along to run errands is a great way to bond....just remember to