

Mazomanie Animal Hospital

704 Emily Road Mazomanie, WI 53560 (608) 795-4242

April 14, 2015

Dear Valued Client,

This letter is to inform you that the State of Wisconsin has seen its first case of Canine Influenza Virus (CIV). The positively diagnosed dog had visited Chicago recently where they have been experiencing an epidemic where at least two dogs have died from the virus. Canine Influenza virus was first identified in Florida in 2004, until now there has been no major outbreak in the Midwest that has threatened to endanger any of our pets. **The Chicago outbreak represents a brand new strain of CIV, and it is not known whether the current vaccines available will have any efficacy against it.**

The Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) is a respiratory disease that causes coughing, runny nose, watery eyes, loss of energy and loss of appetite. Signs of this infection are very similar to other types of respiratory diseases in dogs, but unfortunately the coughing caused by CIV can last for several weeks. With proper care and attention, most dogs will completely recover; unfortunately Canine Influenza can lead to more severe life-threatening illnesses such as pneumonia and may even become fatal.

Because Canine Influenza is caused by a fairly new virus dogs have no natural immunity to it. CIV is highly contagious in nature and all dogs are potentially at risk. Canine Influenza is not contagious to humans, but the newer strain of CIV is contagious to cats. The virus is airborne, but can also be spread by objects and direct contact; ie carried on clothing, shoes, hands, etc. Those at highest risk are dogs that visit places where dogs congregate, such as kennels, daycares, dog parks, or groomers. An additional complication is the virus can be spread before the coughing and other signs of illness appear.

We are in the process of researching treatment options to reduce the severity of the virus including a possible vaccine. There is no outbreak in the Madison area. For now, the best thing is to reduce or stop visiting places that may place your dog at a higher risk.

Here at the Mazomanie Animal Hospital, we are committed to the wellbeing of you and your pet and strive to provide the best care possible. In the coming days and weeks, we will stay in close contact with you and keep you informed of any new developments. We will also provide updates on our Facebook page.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email us anytime.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Richardson and Staff

References:

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Canine-Influenza-Backgrounder.aspx>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/donna-solomon-dvm/canine-flu-canine-influenza_b_6959986.html

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine/>

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