



Beating the New Flu 4 Best Ways

United All Breed Registry 888-908-9299

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The hot strain of canine influenza this year is H3N2. It landed in Chicago early in 2015 and has now been reported in 11 states. It came from Asia and may have been a bird flu originally.

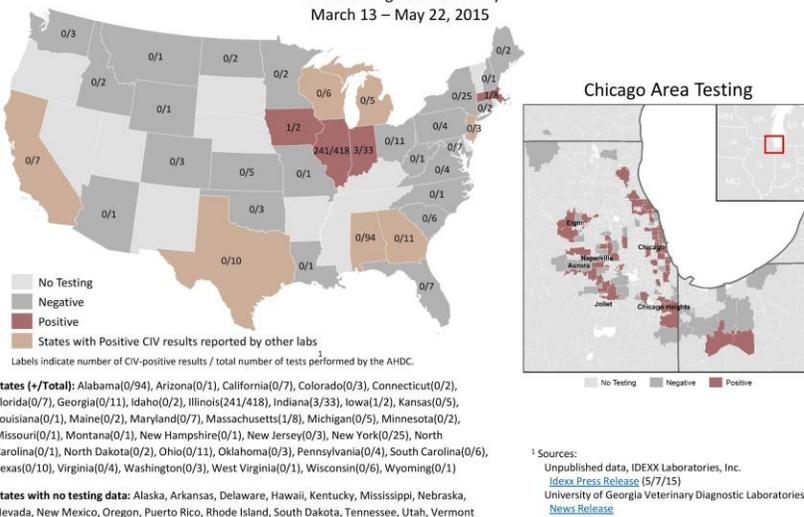


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Emerging Disease Monitoring: Canine Influenza Virus (H3N2)

AHDC Testing Data Summary
March 13 – May 22, 2015



This flu causes respiratory distress similar to kennel cough, and lasts 2-3 weeks. Other common symptoms are lethargy, loss of appetite, low grade fever, weepy eyes and sneezing. Some dogs will also have heavy nasal discharge and get respiratory infections, including pneumonia.

Virtually every dog exposed to this virus will get it. About 20% will never show symptoms, but can pass the virus to other dogs. Most will be miserable for a couple of weeks. Up to 10% have died; these are mostly greyhounds in racing kennels that developed hemorrhagic pneumonia in response to the virus.

Here's the scary part. Dogs are most contagious BEFORE they show any symptoms. Take a look at this chart showing the rate of viral shedding, before and after the cough starts.



So, how do you prevent this flu from hitting every dog in your kennel?

1. **WASH YOUR HANDS.** This flu lives for 24 hours on your clothes and hands. It lives up to 48 hours on hard surfaces. That means it is super easy to carry it from dog to dog yourself. The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends that you wash your hands
 - Entering the kennel
 - Before and after handling each dog
 - After contact with saliva, urine, feces or blood
 - After cleaning cage
 - Before eating meals, taking breaks or leaving kennel
 - Before and after using restroom

2. ISOLATE. Once a dog shows clinical signs, isolate them for two weeks. Disinfect everything they have used or touched. It is even recommended that YOU stay away from dog events if you are caring for a sick pup at home. And definitely wash your clothes after being with sick dogs.
3. FLUIDS. Dehydration is common with this flu, so make sure your dogs are drinking plenty.
4. FEED. Excellent nutrition will help a dog recover faster and help dogs that are not yet infected to have greater immunity and less symptoms if they do get infected. An immune-boosting diet year-round will be the best way to prevent the flu from getting into your kennel.

Will vaccines help? We don't have a vaccine for H3N2 yet. There is a vaccine for an older canine influenza, H3N8, but there is no evidence that it provides any protection for this new strain.

Want to know more? Look [here](#) for details like the size of the virus particle, what it does to mucus membranes and what the N and the H stand for.

Bear in mind that this is a NEW pathogen, and none of our dogs have any natural immunity to it yet. Let's be very careful not to carry it on our clothes, leashes, or shoes when we leave the kennel.

Hope you have a cough-free kennel this winter!

Just for fun... sneezing videos!

[Epic Pomeranian sneeze](#)
Somebody clean that ipad!

[All sorts of animals sneezing](#)