



## Canine Influenza FAQ- King County WA

2/4/2016

You may have seen some [preliminary media reports](#) of two dogs in Kent Washington being diagnosed with Canine Influenza H3N2.

Here are some key factors you should know:

- 1) The canine influenza strain of these two dogs was confirmed to be H3N2. This strain in most cases has been linked to fairly mild symptoms.
- 2) A new vaccine is available for this strain, but even if it is confirmed to be H3N2, at this time we do not recommend vaccinating your dog unless they are traveling to an endemic area where there has been a large cluster of cases. The vaccine does not prevent transmission - it is used to minimize clinical signs in dogs at high risk. We will send an email alert if our local situation changes.

The only recent major canine influenza outbreak has been reported in the Chicago area. This is a new strain of virus - H3N2 - previously seen only in Asia, according to a [report from Cornell University](#). As with humans, vaccination must be targeted to the strain currently circulating.

Dogs may exhibit symptoms that include:

- eye and nose discharge
- mild fever
- reduced appetite
- lack of energy (lethargy) and cough

Symptoms are similar to other conditions like kennel cough. A definitive diagnosis of influenza is only possible through testing. As most cases of both influenza and kennel cough recover uneventfully, and as treatment is directed at symptoms, testing for influenza is usually reserved for unusually ill dogs or dogs involved in large outbreaks.

Symptoms can be managed, and most dogs recover in one to three weeks. Contact our veterinarians if you are concerned about your dog's symptoms.

Canine influenza transmission to humans has never been reported and is considered highly unlikely. Typically, influenza is transmitted to animals through direct contact with other infected animals. People may transmit the virus from an infected animal to another animal, although that has not been determined in this case. To be safe, people who come in contact with sick animals should wash their hands thoroughly in order to prevent spreading the virus. If your animal exhibits symptoms of illness, contact our veterinarians, and keep your dog apart from other canines as well as cats, ferrets and guinea pigs.

Additional information is available through the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) and [WSU Veterinary College](#).

**Redmond-Kirkland Animal Hospital**

7251 W Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE  
Redmond, WA 98052  
www.redmondkirklandveterinary.com  
425-882-8000 p

**Redmond-Fall City Animal Hospital**

24326 NE Redmond-Fall City Rd  
Redmond, WA 98053  
www.redmondsammamishveterinary.com  
425-868-8008 p