

What do you need to know about the recent canine respiratory illness?



What Has Happened?

This summer we realized we were seeing an increase in respiratory illnesses and an increase in pneumonia in dogs, which is not typical with Kennel Cough. We reached out to our local governing body in August and around that same time the first news story came out discussing this concerning increase in respiratory illness. In our own patient population, we were finding that the traditional treatments weren't resolving the symptoms so we reached out to the State Veterinarian as well as local specialty and ER hospitals and Colorado State University to see if there was something they were identifying that would help us better treat our patients. They shared that the more advanced testing available was not giving a diagnosis for sick dogs in the area. We adjusted our medication protocols to try and better control symptoms and provide treatment. We connected with a lab in New Hampshire that has been studying a similar illness for over a year and is now taking samples from us to help better understand what we are treating.

We are finally seeing some of these dogs improve after 8-12 weeks of being sick!

Where We Go Now

As you are probably aware, there have been recent stories on the news about an unknown respiratory illness plaguing dogs in several states. If your dog is not coughing, you likely don't need to worry. We are seeing several presentations of the illness but all of them include coughing. Some dogs are developing a bronchitis that leads to significant and prolonged coughing with or without nasal discharge and congestions. Other dogs are developing a chronic pneumonia and a third subset of dogs are developing a very severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization. There is speculation that this may be viral, which explains why our treatments aren't working. We believe dogs are catching this from other dogs and

therefore it may be best to avoid places like daycare, boarding and dog parks until we see it slowing down or have better advice to give. If your dog is coughing, we recommend that they are seen and have chest x-rays taken so we can continue to try and provide the best care and work towards finding the answers.

<p>What?</p>	<p>An unknown respiratory pathogen is causing dogs to have a severe bronchitis or pneumonia that is not responding to treatment, can last 8-12 weeks, and may be viral in origin.</p>
<p>What can I do?</p>	<p>Avoid high density dog areas until we know more. If your dog isn't coughing, we currently don't think there is cause for alarm.</p>
<p>What do I do if my dog is coughing?</p>	<p>Have your dog seen for an exam and chest x-rays/</p>