

## Tips for Controlling the Spread of CIV in a Veterinary Facility

- Dogs with suspected CIV infection that enter the facility should be isolated immediately and evaluated in a separate room.
- After evaluation, the floors, walls and tables used in the room should be thoroughly disinfected. Particular attention should be given to doorknobs and other objects that were touched by humans who were in contact with the dog.
- CIV is easily killed by disinfectants that are commonly used in veterinary clinics (e.g., quaternary ammonium compounds, bleach solutions at a 1 to 30 dilution, or potassium peroxymonosulfate).
- Hospitalized dogs should be isolated for the protection of other dogs.
- The air supply should be as separate as possible, ideally by a full wall and door; a designated area within a common air space may not be adequate to prevent transmission of the virus.
- At a minimum, gloves and a gown should be worn while handling dogs with CIV infection.
- Staff should wash their hands with soap and water or disinfect them with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after handling the animal.
- Shoes should be disinfected with an appropriately maintained disinfectant footbath when exiting the isolation room.
- Dogs that are at greatest risk for infectious respiratory disease would be those dogs that visit dog parks, doggy day cares, groomers and boarding facilities.
- Viral disease is best prevented by effective vaccination.
- Merck Animal Health offers a canine influenza vaccine, Nobivac® Canine Flu, H3N8, which has been proven to provide protection against the H3N8 strain of the virus. While vaccines may provide a certain amount of cross-protection against different strains of the same virus, it is not known if the current vaccine will provide any protection from this new H3N2 strain of the virus.
- For more information about Canine Influenza, please visit [doginfluenza.com](http://doginfluenza.com).

### Lessons Learned:

#### *On the Front Lines of the Outbreak*

I urge veterinary health professionals in the surrounding areas to be prepared. This virus is very contagious and all it takes is one coughing dog in the waiting room. We have an effective process for isolation and sanitation in our facility. We have signs on every door asking pet owners to keep coughing pets in their car and to call us on the phone to let us know they have arrived. This keeps contagious dogs out of the waiting room until we are ready to see them. Instead, we send our veterinary technicians out to the car in full protective gear – wearing a gown, mask, booties and gloves – to handle basic triage. This helps minimize the spread of the disease.

The technician will then bring the animal into a specific room that is designated for treatment of this illness. The exam room is cleaned thoroughly and disinfected before and after the visit with a bleach solution. The dog stays in this room during the examination. Afterward, the dog is taken directly back to the owner's car.

The clinic's protocol includes constant cleaning and disinfecting. Our staff cleans everything between visits with a bleach solution – the walls, floors, tables, stethoscopes, anywhere the client and patient were sitting. The room is then allowed to "air out" for at least 10 minutes before the next case is brought in. This helps assure that it is properly sanitized.

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