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To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Concerns with Canine Influenza

The Medical Team at Galveston Veterinary Clinic would like to share some information regarding Canine Influenza in our area. We have been informed today of a confirmed case in our area and the possibility of several pets presenting with symptoms who were recently boarding at the Bay Area Petsmart location.

Canine Influenza is caused by the Canine Influenza Virus (CIV). There are 2 known strains of the virus, the H3N8, which was first discovered in 2004, and the H3N2 strain which was identified in 2015 and is the strain identified as infecting dogs in our area. It is a highly contagious virus and is spread through direct contact, nasal secretions, contaminated objects and people who have been in contact with the infected dogs.

The most common symptoms pets will have will be a persistent cough, thick nasal discharge and may be accompanied by lethargy, fever and reduced appetite. Some infected dogs may not show any signs of illness but can still be contagious and able to infect other dogs.

Most dogs can recover from the virus in 2-3 weeks but a small number may develop secondary bacterial infections which can lead to a more severe illness.

The Medical Team at Galveston Veterinary Clinic urge all clients to be aware of the potential symptoms and contact us with any concerns you may have about your pet. Most pets can be treated safely from home with medication. The safest place for any pet is at home and away from any areas with large congregations of other dogs (dog parks, grooming salons, and kennel facilities) where the disease has a potential to spread.

If your pet is at risk of coming into contact with other dogs or the above mentioned locations we strongly recommend you vaccinate your pet against Canine Influenza. We have vaccinations against both the H3N8 and H3N2 strains of the influenza virus available to all pet owners and scheduling your pet for a booster is just a phone call away.

You can find more information available to pet owners about the Canine influenza virus from AVMA and Texas A&M.



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