

Canine flu: a brief mini-overview

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Canine Influenza

- January 2004
- Enveloped RNA virus
- Susceptible species:
 - Dogs
 - Not the usual risk factors
- No evidence of zoonotic risk
- Incubation: 2-5 days
 - *Rapid onset!*
 - *Peak shedding 2-4 days PI*
 - *Often preclinical*
- Clinical signs 10-21 days
- Recovery: 4-10 days from onset
- Carrier state: No ☺

Canine influenza: clinical signs

- No signs in ~ 20%
 - *May be infectious*
- Mild form:
 - Soft, moist or dry cough lasting 10-30 days
 - Mild low-grade fever
 - +/- mucoid/mildly bloody nasal discharge



Canine influenza: clinical signs

- Severe form:
 - Only 1-5%
 - High fever (104-106 F)
 - Pneumonia
 - Death
 - “Hemorrhagic pneumonia” and sudden death primarily a greyhound thing



Flu versus other respiratory disease

- History (recent intro of high risk animal)
- Percentage of dogs affected
 - All ages affected
 - Vaccinated dogs affected
- More rapid onset
- Possibly more severe signs, more likely fever
- Possibly less responsive to antibiotics
- No progression to neurological signs
- Don't forget co-infections

Flu confirmation

- Paired serum samples
 - As soon as 7 days after onset
- One positive convalescent sample confirms exposure
- PCR prone to false negatives at this time



Canine flu transmission and control

- Excretion
 - Up to 3 days before signs
 - Primarily in respiratory discharge
- Disinfection:
 - Persists < 1 week
 - Any commonly used disinfectant
- Transmission
 - Direct, fomite, droplet, aerosol
 - Carried home on clothing
- Vaccine
 - Not yet
 - Don't use horse vax!

Canine flu treatment

- Usual antibiotics for kennel cough may not work
 - TTW and C + S if possible
 - Penicillin plus ceftriaxone/cephalexin?
- No cough suppressant if productive cough
- Single dose of steroids???
- Supportive care of course
- NOT tamiflu at this time



Outbreak management basics

- Shut down adoptions if possible
 - Isolate sick dogs
 - Quarantine all exposed for 2 weeks
 - Or adopt to only-dog home w/ home quarantine and waiver
- Isolation
 - Limited staff
 - Jumpsuits, gloves, boots, supplies
 - Ventilation as separate as possible
 - All staff and volunteers change after work
- Intake into clean area
- Limited depopulation as last resort

Pro-active communication

- Who should know?
 - Recent adopters
 - Local and state vets, shelters, rescues
 - State veterinarian
 - Public health
 - Media
 - Shelter legal counsel
- Who can help?
 - Local vets?
 - Vet schools
 - UC Davis Shelter Medicine program
 - University of Florida
 - crawfordc@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu
 - 352-392-4700 ext 5731
 - ASPCA, HSUS, AH, NACA, ASV

Preparation/prevention

- Educate staff now
- Vaccinate for DHPP and Bordetella on intake for most shelters
- Quarantine high risk for 1 week
 - Boarding
 - Wyoming, Colorado



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