

Good Evening,

Courteous Canine has been following the news coverage on the Atypical Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (aCIRD), closely and have consulted with our Veterinarian and are following the guidance of the state Veterinarian.

This has posed the largest threat to dogs in shelters due to their incomplete vaccination status and higher stress levels. Nationwide it has spread among a very small number of dogs. This began circulating in the late summer and early autumn of 2022.

In an abundance of caution, Courteous Canine is asking:

That dogs who are returning from boarding kennels quarantine at home (make up classes available, ask your instructor) for 7 days following the conclusion of their boarding.

- That if puppies/dogs are enrolled in daycare or other group play environments' we ask that you inform your instructor.
- That if you have recently purchased or adopted your puppy or dog in Rhode Island, we are asking for a 7 day quarantine after your puppy/dog has arrived home.
- That if your puppy or dog has traveled to you from outside RI, we ask that you quarantine for 14 days before attending class.

Current plan to decrease the risk of transmission for our clients:

- This fall we acquired top of the line air purifiers which are set up in the training space and our Unleashed! Day Camp. This purifier has been the #1 Rated medical-grade air purifier, and has a HyperHEPA filtration which is tested and certified by an independent third-party lab to efficiently filter harmful ultrafine pollution particles including COVID, and the virus that transmits Kennel Cough.
- We will continue screening clients' medical records.
- **Clients are asked to bring their own water dish and water for their puppies/dogs.** Puppies/dogs will not be allowed to share water dishes and no community water dishes will be put out in class.
- We will be washing and sanitizing all toys, and **will not be allowing dogs to use toys during free play** until the threat of respiratory illness transmission has passed.

We are asking for clients to assist us in keeping everyone safe by:

- We ask clients to monitor and self-report if their dog has exhibited any of the following symptoms:
 - Coughing that has persisted over multiple days/weeks
 - Fever

- Eye or Nose Discharge
- Sneezing
- Lethargy
- Difficulty Breathing
- Loss of Appetite
- If the dog has ongoing symptoms (longer than 2 days), owners need to be evaluated by their veterinarian.

We recommend that clients consult with their veterinarians and ensure their dogs are vaccinated for all respiratory disease that are currently identified. Owners can discuss if their veterinarian recommends Bordetella, Parainfluenza and Canine Influenza in addition to recommended core vaccines.

The University of New Hampshire's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Hubbard Center for Genome Studies have identified the pathogen, from samples of dogs that were ill in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The pathogen is a small bacterium, which is likely to have evolved from a component of the dog microbiome. This information was shared to guide treatment for the respiratory syndrome outbreaks. Currently doxycycline is showing to be effective. Rhode Island and Massachusetts that has reported a total of 40 dogs ill, and New Hampshire has reported 30 dogs total.

Please discuss your pets' individual exposure levels and risks with your veterinarian. If your dog has immunosuppression issues, please reach out to your veterinarian as your pet has a greater risk.

Please let us know if you have any questions or will be absent from a scheduled class.

Wags!