



Respiratory Illness Concerns

Our senior veterinary staff have provided the following information on the “suspected” new and mysterious respiratory illness in dogs and made the following recommendations regarding classes and keeping your dogs and puppies safe:

- There is a lot of info in the media and concern about a collection of symptoms in our dog population that sounds very much like kennel cough (cough, nasal or ocular discharge, lethargy, fever.) Some dogs develop pneumonia. Fatalities are very rare.
- What we are seeing may just be kennel cough – which does occasionally cause pneumonia.
- We have seen slightly more cases of kennel cough in the last year than in previous years, but our vets would not call this an “outbreak.”
- We have *not* seen a recent increase in the number of suspected respiratory infections in dogs recently.
- No new organism has been identified.
- Vaccination may offer some protection for kennel cough, so it is suggested, as it has always been. Kennel cough is caused by one of several bacteria or viruses. Not all those bugs are protected against by the vaccination.
- We do suspect that the level of concern and media hype is self-perpetuating and is not reflective of the actual level of illness that we are seeing in this area.
- The MSPCA-Angell is taking safety precautions to prevent the spread of illness in our hospital and classes, making sure to implement regular thorough cleanings per our established protocols.

A normal level of caution should be used with dog parks, boarding, play groups, classes, etc. We will continue to hold classes, and trainers will be proactive in sending students home if they observe any signs of cough or other illness. If your dog is displaying any concerning symptoms, please keep them home and contact your vet for medical advice.