



DECEMBER HOSPITAL NEWS

Canine Influenza Strains and Facts This Holiday Season

Canine Influenza, or “dog flu,” is caused by the (CIV) Canine Influenza Virus. It is highly contagious and easily spread from infected dogs to other dogs by direct contact, nasal secretions, barking, coughing, or sneezing. Contaminated surfaces and people moving between infected dogs can also spread the virus. Dogs of any age, sex, breed, or health status can be infected.

There currently have been 2 strains of CIV identified in the U.S. The H3N8 in 2004 and H3N2 in 2015. Symptoms with these infections include a persistent cough, thick nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite. Some infected dogs may show no

signs of illness, but still spread the disease. Most dogs recover within 2-3 weeks when treatment is started promptly. Shockingly, the virus can survive for 48 hours on surfaces, 24 hours on clothing, and 12 hours on your hands. The best way to prevent the disease is to have your dog vaccinated for both strains of CIV. Here at CHAH we vaccinate for both strains of the virus by offering a bivalent vaccine (both strains in one vaccination). Additionally, the vaccine must be boosted 2-3 weeks following the 1st if it is your pet’s 1st flu vaccine. It is then an annual vaccine thereafter.

Pets that are going to be in contact with other dogs should definitely have the vaccination every

year. Boarding over the holidays, daycare, grooming or bathing appointments, and frequent dog park visits are all good reasons why you should vaccinate.



As an added bonus, Merck veterinary partners is offering a \$10.00 discount on the CIV booster or annual vaccine now through 1/31/19.

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Employee Pet Spotlight

This month, we are highlighting our “Superhero” groomer, Beth’s dogs! Beth has been a groomer at CHAH for 9 years. Piper is a 4 yr old Husky mix and Sawyer is a 4 yr old Hound mix. Piper is an agility girl, while Sawyer is training to become a certified therapy dog. They both love to play with their feline brothers at home, other dogs, and coming with Mom to work and hangout. They also love hiking at Shawnee National Forest.

Featured Rescue:

Bialy's Wellness Foundation

Bialy's Wellness Foundation helps families and rescue organizations care for pets with special needs, particularly those with mobility issues from paralysis, amputation, neurological or birth defects, and other diagnosed ailments. Because care for these animals can be costly, too often they are put down or surrendered to high kill shelters. This featured rescue is also our primary focus for donations from the CHAH Annual Santa Paws Event on Dec. 2nd.



Josh the Pit Bull puppy was found abandoned in a dumpster. He had a broken back, caused by blunt force trauma, and couldn't move his back legs. He had contracted pneumonia and was living in a very sorry state. One can only imagine the kind of person that would allow a living, breathing, and loving animal to go through such pain. Luckily, the Chicago Bully Breed Rescue saved him from this life, along with Bialy's Wellness Foundation. He was provided treatment and fitted with a special cart to help him walk. He is now a happy dog that lives life to the fullest and loves his play time and spending time with his buddies. To see more success stories visit:

www.bialyswellnessfoundation.org

Come Join Us On December 2nd!!



Join us on December 2nd for our annual Santa Paws! For a \$5.00 donation you will receive a photo print of your pet's picture with our very own Santa Claus! As always, we will also have an assortment of prizes offered for those who wish to purchase a raffle ticket. 100% of proceeds raised will go directly to Bialy's Wellness Foundation. All Pets Welcome!!

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Older Pet Considerations

Things to remember as your pet ages:

- Older pets will require more frequent visits to the vet's office. Exams every 6 months are encouraged. Exams, urinalysis and chemistry panels after the age of 7 become vital to maintain the quality of your pet's health. Values of internal organs can often change over the course of months, or even a few weeks. Early detection will ensure your pet will be active and healthy for as long as possible.
- Geriatric pets often require special foods to help with diseases of the kidneys, liver, or urinary tract. Tooth problems and caloric intake needs also change as your pet ages.
- Weight gain often occurs because of a decrease in physical activity and arthritic changes. Nutritional supplements, probiotics, and anti-inflammatory medications are all available to keep your pet comfortable.
- Older pets immune systems are not as strong as younger animals. Their reduced ability to fight off diseases makes parasitic infections more likely. Heartworm, flea, and tick medications are just as important to give on a routine basis.
- Non-neutered/Un-spayed pets are at a higher risk of developing cancers related to the reproductive organs.
- Older pets may also require more environmental changes. This may include avoiding stairs or slick surfaces to prevent accidental falls. They may also spend more time indoors.

