

## Information on the Canine Flu

As many of you are aware, there have now been confirmed cases of the Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) in the Northern Virginia area. The Fairfax County Shelter has seen several dogs that are showing symptoms (along with 2 diagnosed cases) and has taken precautions to temporarily stop shelter operations for a couple weeks.

I wanted to let everyone know a little more about CIV:

- Canine influenza was first identified in 2004 and has been confirmed in 30 states.
- Like the flu virus in humans, dogs can have a range of symptoms from the virus and most do not get seriously ill.
- Older dogs or dogs with other health problems are more susceptible to develop pneumonia or secondary infections that can cause more serious illness or death.
- Humans and other animals cannot get sick from the virus, but can help spread it if they have been in contact with a dog that is sneezing or coughing.
- The virus can live on surfaces or clothing for up to 48 hours.
- The main symptoms include cough, runny nose and fever.
- Dogs can carry the virus for up to five days before showing symptoms.

All About Dogs plans to continue holding all classes as normal. However, we do ask that you check your dog frequently and do not bring dogs to training if they show any signs of coughing, runny nose or fever.

I did speak with Amber, the owner of Dogtopia where we hold our classes, and they have not seen any dogs with symptoms and will continue to monitor the daycare and boarding dogs as well.

If you have additional questions you can check out this article at the Center For Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine/>