

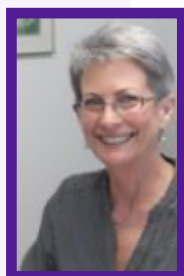
# THE SCOTTIE GUARDIAN

## Quarterly Newsletter of the STCA's Health Trust Fund

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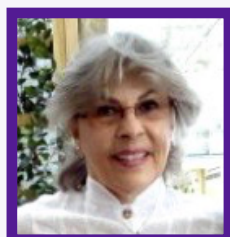
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Welcome to the November issue of the 2023 HTF's newsletter! This issue of *The Guardian* has a variety of timely articles for your reading pleasure:



- As the year comes to an end, we all welcome the holiday season just around the corner. Parties, visitors, and family gatherings all are in the picture. But we also have to plan for our dogs and keep them safe in a busy time. In this issue, you will find some great advice on **holiday safety** for our pets written by Dr. Marty Greer.
- Also, with the arrival of colder weather, we all move indoors for parties and events, raising the risk for contagious diseases in our dogs as well as in ourselves. Take the time to read about **Canine Flu** from the AKC.
- Don't miss the reprint from *USA Today* about an important new treatment for **Parvovirus** that is improving outcomes in puppies.
- Read the new information for DNA testing for the CHIC Database.
- And more!

We have so many reasons to give thanks for our family, our friends and our beloved Scotties near and far. The Health Trustees extend our best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Holiday Season!

Marcia Dawson, Chair  
Health Trust Fund of the STCA

**Be sure to visit the STCA webpage at [www.stca.biz](http://www.stca.biz) for more details on Health and the Health Trust Fund pages, including links to the ScottiePhile Health library and HTF donation pages.**

# Dog Flu

## Symptoms, Treatment, and Prevention

By AKC Staff

Published: Nov 03, 2022 / Updated: Oct 19, 2023

When it comes to the dog flu, it's important to always be prepared. While most cases are not fatal, the canine influenza virus can make your pup uncomfortably sick, and cause you both a lot of stress and time spent at the vet's office. If you are a dog owner, you don't need to panic about the dog flu, but you should familiarize yourself with the symptoms so that you know what to look for in the event of an outbreak in your area.

**What Is Dog Flu?** - Dog flu, or canine influenza virus, is an infectious respiratory disease caused by an influenza A virus, similar to the viral strains that cause influenza in people. There are two known strains of dog flu found in the United States:

**H3N8.** The strain actually originated in horses. The virus jumped from horses to dogs, becoming a canine influenza virus around 2004, when the first outbreaks affected racing Greyhounds at a track in Florida.

**H3N2,** on the other hand, originated in Asia, where scientists believe it originated from birds before affecting dogs. H3N2 is the virus responsible for the 2015 and 2016 outbreaks of canine influenza in the Midwest and continues to spread throughout the United States.

**How Is Canine Influenza Spread?** - Like human forms of influenza, dog flu is airborne. Respiratory secretions escape into the environment in the form of coughing, barking, and sneezing, where they are then inhaled by a new canine host. The dog flu also spreads through contaminated objects and environments, like water bowls, collars, and kennel surfaces, or through contact with people who have had direct contact with an infected dog.

Crowded areas like kennels, grooming parlors, daycare centers, and dog parks are breeding grounds for diseases like canine influenza. The close proximity of the dogs means that a barking, coughing, or sneezing dog can easily infect canines around them. This is made more dangerous by the fact that dogs are most contagious during the incubation period before they start exhibiting symptoms.

**How Long Are Dogs Infected With Dog Flu Contagious?** - The incubation period of canine influenza is approximately two-to-four days from initial exposure to the dog flu virus. Viral shedding starts to decrease after the fourth day, but dogs with H3N8 remain contagious for up to 10 days after exposure, and dogs with H3N2 remain contagious for up to 26 days. Most vets recommend isolating dogs with H3N2 for at least 21 days to reduce the risk of transmission.

Almost all dogs that come into contact with the disease will contract it, but not all dogs that become infected show symptoms of the virus. About 20-25% of dogs that infected are asymptomatic, but these dogs can still spread the disease. If one of your canine companions catches the flu, but the other seems unaffected, remember that he could still have the virus. Talk to your vet about quarantine procedures for all dogs in your household.

# Dog Flu (continued)

**Symptoms of Dog Flu** - So, how do you know if your dog has canine influenza? There are several symptoms all owners should be aware of. Dog flu cases range from mild to severe and, unlike human influenzas, are not seasonal. Keep an eye out for the following symptoms year-round:

- Coughing (both moist and dry)
- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Purulent nasal discharge
- Runny eyes
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Difficulty breathing

## CANINE INFLUENZA

### SYMPTOMS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- COUGH
- SNEEZE
- RUNNY NOSE
- NASAL DISCHARGE
- LOSS OF APPETITE
- LETHARGY
- FEVER

*Remember to keep your pet out of activities like Doggie Day Care if they are exhibiting these symptoms!*



Dog flu symptoms resemble kennel cough symptoms, which is also an illness you should talk to your veterinarian about as soon as you notice symptoms.

Pug laying down indoors looking sad.

claudiadoenitzperez/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Most cases of dog flu are mild, but severe cases can occur. In those instances, dogs can develop pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and a high fever. Luckily, the mortality rate is relatively low, with less than 10% of dog flu cases resulting in fatalities.

### Dog Flu Treatments

The canine influenza virus requires the attention of a veterinarian. In some states, vets are required to report cases of canine influenza to the government to help monitor the spread of the disease.

There is no cure for dog flu. Treatment is supportive, and your veterinarian can advise you on the best ways to keep your dog comfortable during his illness and recovery. Some dogs may require supportive care, such as fluids, to aid their recovery, as well as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications to reduce fevers. Your vet will help you come up with a nutritional plan and may prescribe antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections.

Your vet will also inform you about appropriate quarantine procedures to prevent the spread of dog flu, depending on the strain of the virus your dog contracts, and can give you information about disinfectant solutions to use in your home to help kill the virus.

Call your vet ahead of time to let her know that your dog is showing symptoms of a respiratory infection. Both kennel cough and dog flu are highly contagious, and your vet may request that you keep your dog outside until your appointment time to prevent the risk of transmission to other patients in the waiting room.

**Preventing Dog Flu** - The best way to prevent your dog from contracting dog flu is to keep them away from public places or kennels with recently reported cases. If you come into contact with a dog that you suspect has dog flu or has recently been exposed to it, wash your hands, arms, and clothing before touching your own dog. This will reduce the risk of transmission from you to your dog.

There are vaccines available for both the H3N8 and H3N2 strains of canine influenza. Your vet may recommend the vaccine based on your lifestyle. For instance, if you live in an area with a high incidence of dog flu or if your dog regularly spends time in kennels or travels to shows around the country, then they could be at an increased risk of contracting canine influenza and your vet may recommend the vaccine as a precaution.

# First-of-its-kind parvo treatment may revolutionize care for highly fatal puppy disease

Mary Walrath-Holdridge

USA TODAY

Cookie the Pitbull mix puppy was only 8 weeks old when she got sick. Still small enough to fit in the cupped palms of two open hands, she started showing symptoms no pet parent wants to see: lethargy, lack of appetite vomiting, diarrhea.

Her owners promptly brought her to see the clinicians from The Fix Project, a non-profit clinic specializing in parvovirus as part of Fix Long Beach Pets' facility in Long Beach, California.

There, a test confirmed a diagnosis dreaded by owners, vets and animal welfare activists alike: Cookie had contracted parvovirus.

She was immediately admitted to the clinic, looking weak, sick and facing a prognosis that, historically, is less than stellar. Little did Cookie know when she walked in that day, she would make a little bit of history.

**Canine parvovirus' deadly history** - Canine parvovirus is one of the most deadly and contagious viruses impacting dogs. It is especially prevalent in young puppies who are not yet old enough to receive their full round of preventive vaccines. The mortality rate for canine parvovirus is as high as 91% if left untreated and an estimated 900 cases are diagnosed a day in the U.S., totaling 330,000 cases annually.

The progression of the virus is unpleasant to witness, to put it lightly. Distressed owners often watch their beloved companion suffer with symptoms including lethargy, GI bleeding, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, shock and sepsis.

And even with intervention, survival is not guaranteed, as all treatment up to this point have merely been supportive, meaning they aim to alleviate symptoms but cannot fight or cure the virus itself.

In fact, many owners in the three decades since parvo first appeared in Europe have faced unbelievably tough decisions after arriving at the vet, where they grapple with a low survival prognosis and the extremely high price tag of the round-the-clock care required to stabilize a dog suffering with parvo.

Often, these cases ended up in euthanasia or death from progression of the disease.

Vets, rescues, shelters, activists and animal welfare organizations have contended with the unpredictable, complicated and difficult-to-tame disease for years, fighting to keep it from spreading in shelter settings or simply fighting to keep their patients alive.

Despite the best efforts of so many, the lack of a targeted treatment left caregivers often feeling helpless – until a recent development blew the thing wide open.

# Parvovirus (continued)

**Elanco announces first-ever targeted parvo treatment** - Elanco Animal Health Incorporated, a pharmaceutical company producing medicine and vaccines for animals, made the long-awaited announcement earlier this year that it had developed the first-ever targeted treatment for canine parvovirus.

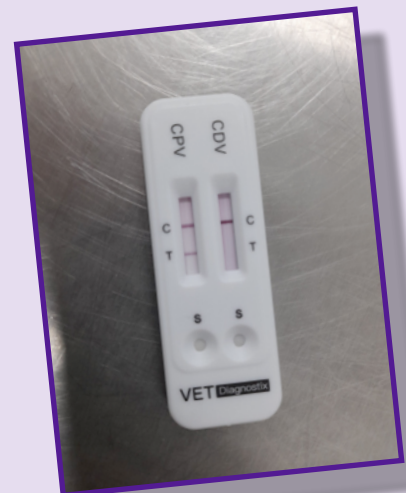
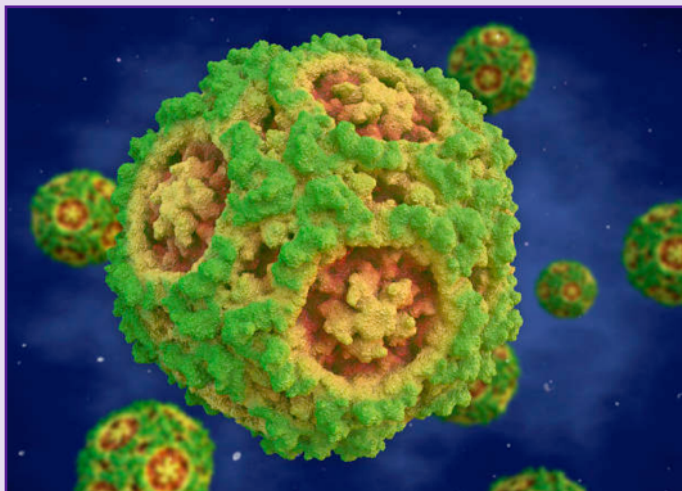
The Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody treatment by Elanco is the first and only USDA conditionally approved therapy of its kind that directly targets canine parvovirus. In clinical trials, zero dogs treated with the Elanco's Monoclonal Antibody died, the company told USA TODAY. The treatment has also been found to shorten the course of the disease, resolving some of the worst symptoms more quickly, limiting hospitalizations and increasing survivability.

The treatment is administered intravenously in a single dose and works by binding to the virus directly, blocking entry into host cells. By resolving symptoms faster, patients are able to feel and get better sooner and go home to their families after a much shorter (and hopefully cheaper) vet stay.

"In the past, we've only had symptomatic and supportive care to help these puppies," Dr. Jennifer Miller, Elanco's in-house veterinarian told USA TODAY. "Now, we have something that will fight the virus directly and stop it in its tracks, so that way it doesn't get into the host cells and cause destruction in these puppies' guts."

The company expects full USDA approval to come in 2024, said Miller, but vets are able to access the medicine in the meantime. With a recent Elanco study finding only 44% of total dog owners actually know what parvo is and 20% have no idea, she feels it is important to raise awareness about parvo and its seriousness, as well as the new treatment options available.

"Parvovirus really affects all segments of veterinary medicine. Shelter, general practice, ER, rescue, everything. All puppies are susceptible to parvo," she said. "Right now, even with the conditional approval, any veterinarian that wants to order it can."



# Parvovirus (continued)

**Treatment in action at The Fix Project clinic** - Luckily for Cookie and other dogs cared for by The Fix Project, it became one of the first clinics to use Elanco's Monoclonal Antibody in practice. According to Dr. Alex Cabrera, veterinarian and medical director at The Fix Project, seeing the new treatment in action has had an impact not only on the puppies and their owners, but also the teams caring for them as well.

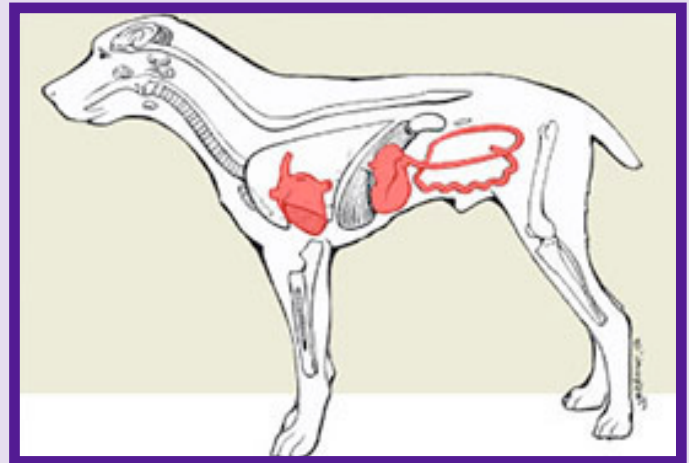
"Lately, especially during COVID, treating these puppies was tough," he told USA TODAY, "I was giving out bills of \$5,000 for three to four days of hospitalization. I don't mind giving a big bill like that if we're saving the pet but when we're losing them and it's not the first day, not the second day, it's usually three days into treatment, of holding onto them and caring for them ... that sucks."

Cabrera said that the clinic has recently incorporated the new medication into protocol at the parvo ICU and that their treatment success rate has increased, especially in smaller and more vulnerable patients.

"It made a big difference," he said. "And we've also noticed that they're getting out of our treatment ward faster and they're spending less time in."

This is great for the animals and the people who love them, of course, but also for the mental health of his team, who are able to enjoy more positive outcomes and have less of their time consumed by intensive care that may or may not work.

Parvovirus targets the epithelium of the small intestine, the lining that helps to absorb nutrients and provides a crucial barrier against fluid loss and bacterial invasion from the gut into the body.



**More happy endings** - The first puppy to receive Elanco's Monoclonal Antibody was considered high-risk due to her young age and small size. She was brought in on a Friday and tested positive in the parking lot, then immediately admitted. The treatment was administered the same day and by Saturday, her energy began to return.

Like any young, energetic puppy, she was wiggling around and trying to chew through her lines. By Saturday night, she was already eating again.

By Monday morning, she was tested once more, and results came back negative: she was parvo free. After just a weekend stay, she was able to go home to her family.

And that puppy, of course, was Cookie.

"To actually see it (used) on a client-owned puppy....to see the, the change," said Miller. "It was just such a contrast to what I've seen living in a parvo endemic area. It was amazing to see that come to life."

# Holiday Safety For Dogs

## Tips & Tricks To Keep Pets Safe This Season



By Dr. Marty Greer  
Published: Dec 09, 2019

**Holiday Safety For Dogs** - There are many things that change in your home during the holidays. Packages and visitors come through the door, decorations adorn the house, big meals are made with special foods, and wrapped gifts surround a new tree in the main part of your home. As much fun as this can be, it can also pose some stress and risks to your dogs. Learn some important holiday safety rules, tricks, and tips that can help keep you and your pets happy during this season.

**Deliveries** - When hosting visitors, keep a leash and collar or harness securely on your pets, with ID tags showing your cell phone number. Be sure your pets are microchipped. Dogs can slip out the door in a heartbeat and be gone. Alternately, keep an exercise pen set up at the door so you can open the door, but your pets can't escape.

**Electric Cords** - The skinny cords on Christmas tree lights are not well insulated and easy for a puppy to chew into. Electrocutation can result, so safety is paramount. Keep the cords covered so pets stay safe. Also, consider keeping the lower branches of the tree free from lights. If you catch your dog chewing on a cord, unplug the cord immediately and move it out of their reach.

**Christmas Trees & Decorations** - You can easily add a safety measure by tethering your tree to the ceiling with a plant hook and a thin wire. Curious climbing pups or those with enthusiastically-wagging tails will appreciate not having the tree fall over on them. Also, monitor and prevent pine needle and tree water ingestion.

Hang bells on the lower branches to help alert you to your pet's exploration of the tree. Either keep your special, breakable ornaments at the tops of the tree or in storage the years you have young dogs romping around. Another option is to surround the tree with an exercise pen to remove any temptation to muck on ornaments.

Tinsel, yarn, strings, and other items with long strands can be fascinating to pets. Avoid using these products in areas where pets can get into them. Strings of popcorn and cranberries may be especially enticing, so keep these out of reach.



## Holiday Safety for Dogs (continued)

**Plants** - Traditional holiday plants like mistletoe and holly are toxic to dogs. Yew, the evergreen many people have in their landscaping is extremely toxic. As a safety measure, avoid bringing clippings into your home to use as garland unless you can identify the variety. Poinsettias are not toxic, but any plant ingestions can lead to oral irritation, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

**Toxic Foods** - Several common holiday foods that humans can safely eat are unsafe for dogs. These include chocolate, raisins and grapes, Macadamia nuts, and sugarless products containing xylitol. Avoid putting food-containing gifts under the tree, wrapped or unwrapped, when your dogs will be in the room unsupervised. Alcohol innocently set on a low table or the floor can be quickly raided by a pet, leading to serious consequences.

Gifts under the tree occasionally include meats and cheeses. Too much fat from these can be dangerous. Bones and fats from ham, turkey, and other meats can cause pancreatitis or intestinal blockages. Mesh wrappers and leg holders on meats can also smell tempting but cause bowel obstructions. If you've got a dog who gets into trash cans, be sure to empty them when they're full of food.





# Holiday Safety for Dogs (continued)

**Sidewalk Salt** - Avoid using regular sidewalk salt and instead, use cat litter or pet-safe sidewalk salt products. Wash your pet's paws if they do track through salt that isn't pet-friendly.

**Antifreeze** - Ethylene glycol, antifreeze, is highly toxic to pets. It has a sweet taste and remains liquid when other water sources are frozen. Ingestion initially will mimic alcohol consumption, but quickly leads to irreversible and fatal kidney failure. Keep antifreeze wiped up and stored in covered containers. Suspected ingestion should require a trip to the veterinarian immediately.

Make sure pets have an unfrozen water supply available to them when they are outside. Heated water bowls are available, with a wire coil surrounding the cords to keep pets safe from chewing through a cord.

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**Candles & Oils** - Dogs can easily tip candles over or venture too close to the flames. Even potpourri oils are dangerous when licked from the source or off their coats. Place these high or avoid altogether. Consider using plug-in room scent products as an alternative.

**Visitors** - Identify which home-made treats are for your pets and which are for your family and friends. You don't want to be the one who bites into a deliciously-decorated dog biscuit.



Marty Greer, DVM, JD has run the Veterinary Village Small Animal Clinic in Wisconsin since 1982. She is an expert in canine reproduction, is author of Canine Reproduction and Neonatology and a frequent lecturer on the subject. Dr. Greer also studied law at Marquette University and is a partner in Animal Legal Resources, LLC and is a board member of the National Animal Interest Alliance. Director of Veterinary Services-Revival Animal Health President-Society of Veterinary Medical Ethics.



## Update on DNA Testing for CHIC

For Scottie breeders and owners wanting to enter their dogs into OFA's CHIC database, the time has arrived for some great deals on DNA testing.

With the closing of VetGen early in the spring, the HTF was tasked with finding a US genetic lab that offered both the CMO and vWD DNA tests as separate tests. There are companies that offer these two tests embedded in large, expensive panels along with a bewildering array of other mutations and traits, most of which have no significance in our breed. At that time, the only US lab that offered both the CMO and the vWD DNA tests "a la carte" was Paw Print Genetics in Spokane WA. The HTF negotiated a discount for orders to coincide with the Montgomery County National weekend and publicized the deal. <https://www.pawprintgenetics.com/>

Shortly after Montgomery County, GenSol Diagnostics in Clayton, GA announced that they now have the CMO DNA test as well as the vWD test available. GenSol has very affordable prices at \$29 per test, which includes free First-Class shipping for orders over \$50. They also offer a discount for first time buyers. Orders can be placed at any time by going on-line, creating an account and following the instructions. <https://www.gensoldx.com/>

Regardless of the testing lab used, you will have to mail a copy of the DNA test results to OFA along with the submission forms that are available on the OFA website. Registration fee of \$15 per test result must be included with the application.

### CHIC Certification Reminder

- **Required:** vWD DNA test, Patella Exam, permanent identification (microchip or tattoo)
- **One Elective Test:** CMO DNA test, Thyroid panel from approved lab, AVCO Eye Exam  
<https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/?breed=ST>

Questions? Contact us!



## From Your Editor's Desk

Good morning and good grief!

### *Weather Report from Home Base of Monument, CO*

Are you kidding me?? When I woke up this morning, Dad tried to get me to go outside for my morning trip around the yard, but lo and behold, there was 8" of snow on the ground and the temperature was like 9°. **NO WAY!!** Last week it was 80° and I want it back! But, there was a bonus. Seems a buck decided to camp out in the front yard. Here he is:



Dad let me look but wouldn't let me chase him.

Now, back to the newsletter...

Flu season is here so I've included an article on dog flu. And it's not just dogs; it seems that all the humans I sniff on my walkies have an upper respiratory crud. My dad's turned into pneumonia but Mom escaped; she's keeping her mask on, though. BTW, the dog strains and the human strains are different. The strains in humans are H1N1 & H3N2 and the doggie flu strains are H3N8 and H3N2. All are A strains, although there are two B strains circulating in humans, too.

There's good news about Parvovirus so I put that in, also.

Lastly, we can't forget that the holidays are once again upon us. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years can play havoc on my tummy, whether it's people food or decorations. Please read the article in this newsletter about all those evil decorations.



Until next time, I remain your one and only Lamb Chop!