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WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

To: Arkansas Veterinarians

From: Brandon Doss, DVM
Arkansas State Veterinarian

RE: Canine Influenza Update

Per Dr. Cynda Crawford at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, there are confirmed canine cases of H3N2 cases in 6 states (FL, GA, KY, TX, NC, and LA) primarily associated with dog movement between AKC dog shows. Cases have spilled into pet dogs in FL as well. There is a concern the outbreak will continue via AKC shows. Dr. Crawford is working with AKC and provided a list of states with dog shows scheduled in June: AR, IA, IL, KY, LA, MI, MO, NY, OH, PA, VA, WI, WV.

Additional information is available via the following links:

FAQs for pet owners and veterinarians: <http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/shelter-services/tools-tips-fact-sheets/canine-influenza-3/>

Additional information is also available at: American Veterinary Medical Association Website: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Canine-Influenza-Backgrounder.aspx>

The most important step is to vaccinate dogs against the canine influenza viruses. Just like human flu vaccines, the H3N2 CIV vaccine may not completely prevent infection but will make it less likely. Additionally, if a vaccinated dog does get infected, the disease is likely to be mild and of shorter duration. The vaccine can also protect against pneumonia.

Canine Influenza is not currently a reportable disease in Arkansas. However, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission has broad authority to respond to animal disease outbreaks including quarantine and additional actions if deemed necessary by the State Veterinarian.

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory offers canine influenza testing on nasal swabs. Please contact the laboratory for additional information.

