

## Upper Respiratory Illnesses in Dogs

There is a lot of chatter in the media right now about a “mystery” upper respiratory illness (URI) sweeping the country. Here is what you need to know to help keep your dog safe.

### Symptoms to look out for:

- Coughing (Call the vet at the first cough!)
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Discharge around the eyes
- Labored Breathing
- Lethargy or Weakness
- Don't be surprised if your dog's blood work comes back with multiple pathogens. This is very common.
- Refuses food or change in appetite
- Fever

If your dog has any of these symptoms, you need to get them checked by your vet immediately.



URI's can cause rapid deterioration. Ask your vet about the benefits of running a PCR panel (blood work) in these situations.

### Things you can do to minimize your dogs risk of contracting a URI:

- Limit exposure by avoiding highly trafficked dog areas like dog parks.
- Avoid communal water bowls.
- Avoid contact with other dogs outside of your home.
- Make sure your pets vaccinations are up to date.
- Seek veterinary care IMMEDIATELY if your dog develops any of the symptoms to the left, especially a cough.
- Switch from doggie daycare/ boarding to in home visits if you know your dog is high risk.

Upper respiratory illnesses are endemic in the United States. They are always around and POMP RVA has always prioritized vaccinations. Bottom line, if you want to exercise extreme caution, get your pet vaccinated with intranasal vaccinations for upper respiratory illnesses and influenza every 6 months, keenly observe your pet for any changes in behavior, and seek veterinary care at the earliest signs of illness.

# Support Local Small Businesses

Small Business Saturday is the perfect time to show local small businesses some love but it has come and gone. Instead of just one day a year, lets shower small businesses with our patronage all year round! When you shop from a local small business, you are supporting your friends and neighbors directly. Here are some fun ways you can show your support.

- Gifts - With the holidays right around the corner, hit up your local shops like Dog House Cat, to grab a gift, or 3, for those animal lovers in your life.
- Gifts for pets - I can't open gifts on Christmas morning without having something for my 7 cats and Beagle Willow having something to open too. Providing new toys and treats brings novelty and enrichment to their days.
- Gift Cards - Don't know what to get, a gift card is always useful.



Here's a list of a few of my favorite small businesses:

- Dog House Cat
- Coalmine Coffee & Sweets
- JC Cleaning Services
- Vicki Clarkson Watercolors (pictured above)
- Joyfully Rendered - Memorable Fine Art by Donna Whitman

## Inclement Weather

With colder temperatures, ice and snow follow. Here are some things you can do to help ensure your pet, and our staff, stay safe this winter!

- Use only pet safe salt like Safe Paw.
- Shovel your steps, walks, and driveway. Slips and falls are bad for pets and people!
- Make sure your emergency contacts are up to date and try to have at least one of them be someone in your neighborhood in case roads are truly impassable.

