ATYPICAL RESPIRATORY ILLNESS FACT SHEET

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1. What do we know about the illness?
   It is a respiratory disease that does seem to be more of a concern than most kennel coughs. Some dogs are coughing and sneezing. Other dogs are getting acute pneumonia which can create more serious problems. All of the respiratory pathogens in the canine infectious respiratory disease group (bacterial/viral) can be shed by those exposed BEFORE clinical signs appear. It is believed to have started in Oregon and the state lab in Oregon is working with samples to figure out what it is, how it is spread, and how to treat it. The disease is also being investigated by the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

2. How prevalent is it?
   Most of the cases have been seen in Oregon, but we are starting to see signs of it spreading across the United States. So far, states that have reported cases total 14, including Maryland, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. We are keeping a close watch on the disease, but so far we have not seen any major outbreaks in our area.

3. What symptoms should pet parents look out for?
   Pet parents should note respiratory signs such as coughing, especially a moist or wet sounding cough, and sneezing. There is the potential to see nose or eye discharge and sometimes lethargy and an unwillingness to eat. Some of these dogs are developing pneumonia and acute pneumonia.

4. How can pet parents protect their pet against it?
   If your dog has any respiratory symptoms, like coughing, sneezing, or nasal discharge, you should take them to your veterinarian for an examination. The veterinarian will likely want to take radiographs to assess the pet’s lungs and possibly samples to send to a laboratory for diagnosis. If you are around other dogs during the day, you will want to change clothes before playing with your dogs at home. It is important that pet parents keep their pets updated on vaccines, and especially consider both kennel cough and canine influenza for their pet. This is especially important for dogs that board, are groomed, and attend dog parks or daycare.

5. We advise pet parents to keep dogs with respiratory issues away from other dogs for two weeks after coughing stops. This means no boarding, grooming or daycare until a pet has been cough free for two weeks.