

# HVAH Newsletter

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## Summer - and the dangers for our pets ....

As the temperature rises, so does the chance of experiencing heat-related problems. Even on seemingly "cool" days, the risk of heatstroke can be alarming.

Often on days with mild temperatures, pet owners might be tempted to leave their pet in the car for "just a minute" while they run into the store. A recent study by Stanford University showed that on a 72-degree day, a car's internal temperature could climb to 116 degrees within one hour. While most responsible pet owners are aware of the "animal in the car" danger, pets can suffer from heatstroke in other surprising ways. Heatstroke can occur from a walk around the neighborhood, as well as simple activities outside.

Heatstroke occurs when the pet's natural defense system cannot handle the heat building up inside his/her body. Cats and dogs handle heat through respiratory measures such as panting, and sweating through the pads of their paws. When they cannot pant away the heat, his/her body will overheat. Heatstroke that occurs as a result of physical activity or exercise usually takes place when the pets are exposed to hot temperatures.

When it's hot outside, the best times for physical activity are before 9 am or after 7 pm, although there are measures to prevent heatstroke as it can occur at any time of the day.

Some pets can get heatstroke while swimming. Even the most athletic breeds and dogs that are very fit can suffer from heatstroke.

Heatstroke is a veterinary emergency and should be treated immediately. Signs of heatstroke include: excessive panting, profuse salivation, glazed eyes or staring, anxiety or restlessness, gums and tongue that appear bright red or purple, confusion, trouble standing or walking, collapse, and vomiting.

If you suspect that your pet is suffering from heatstroke, try to cool him/her down by soaking him/her with towels and cool water (not cold) and placing in front of a fan if possible. It is not recommended that owner use ice or ice-cold water to cool pets as this may lead to cooling the body too quickly. Contact your veterinarian immediately.

Ways to prevent heatstroke include: keeping pets inside on hot days, always have fresh water available, keep pets well groomed as matted and tangled fur may actually trap the heat, and maintain a healthy body weight.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of our veterinarians.

## Meet the staff spotlight is on ... "Dena"

Dena joined our technician team in February, 2014 and we couldn't be happier.

A 2001 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School, Dena also attended Lehigh Valley Community College as well as Northampton Community College.



Born in the Bronx, Dena grew up in Kunkletown, PA - but now resides in Hampstead, MD with her Rottweiler Ko2, her French Bulldog Astrid, and her Old English Bulldog Dyce. She saves money on eggs with the assistance of her three backyard chickens as well.

In the past, Dena had the opportunity to work with zoo animals such as a sloth, mountain lion, and an alligator.

Beyond her love for animals, Dena has special interests in photography and graphic design. She hopes to one day become a certified dog trainer as well.

When Dena isn't working, she enjoys her camping trips to Ithaca, NY where she can be found kayaking and fishing.

*Hunt Valley Animal Hospital*

*Proudly welcomes ....*

*Kelly Rowe - Hospital  
Administrator*

*Christine Yankowsky - Technician*

*Katarrinna Gause - Technician*

*Vincent Field - Kennel Manager*

*We are 5000 glad you joined us!*

### *Heading on a vacation?*

Don't forget to schedule your pet for boarding!

Just like the holiday's, the summer weeks can fill up quickly.

We welcome dogs, cats, birds, and exotics!

Call us today - we'll gladly assist you in booking your pet's stay with us.

*410 - 527 - 0800*

### *Avian Word Scramble ...*

*ackeioclt* \_\_\_\_\_

*oprelartt* \_\_\_\_\_

*ncuroe* \_\_\_\_\_

*ilkeeort* \_\_\_\_\_

*qcieuas* \_\_\_\_\_

*apkeearb* \_\_\_\_\_

*aacrerin gfy* \_\_\_\_\_

*aazomn* \_\_\_\_\_

*kcaotoco* \_\_\_\_\_

*eccutcls* \_\_\_\_\_

*cmaaw* \_\_\_\_\_



## *Canine Influenza ... Dog Flu*

With the large outbreak of canine influenza in the Midwest making headlines, many pet owners are understandably worried about the disease. The virus has reportedly sickened more than 1,000 dogs and killed at least five pets in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana.

Canine influenza, or "dog flu," is caused by a relatively new virus. First documented in racing greyhounds in Florida in 2004, the virus has two known strains: H3N8, which is circulating in North America, and H3N2, found in Asia. The Midwest epidemic is caused by the Asian virus, but because the vast majority of dogs in the United States have never been exposed to either strain—and so have little to no immunity—the disease is highly contagious.

Dog flu spreads via respiratory droplets, either through the air or on contaminated surfaces, clothing or people, and the virus can live for hours. The majority of dogs show symptoms in two to four days, but are most contagious in that window between exposure to the virus and onset of flu symptoms.



Symptoms mimic what we see with the flu in humans: coughing, nasal and eye discharge, sneezing, fever and reduced appetite and energy. About one in five infected dogs will develop potentially life-threatening complications, such as pneumonia, but canine influenza is fatal in less than 10 percent of cases.

Up to 20 percent of dogs exposed to the virus will never show signs of the flu, but they can still shed the virus and infect other dogs. Dog-to-dog transmission can occur easily in boarding facilities, animal shelters, dog parks, grooming salons and other environments where dogs mingle.

If you notice symptoms of canine flu, take your dog to a veterinarian right away. A blood test can confirm the infection. The treatment is often just rest and tempting foods. A vaccine exists for the North American strain, but it's not routinely administered; it doesn't prevent the flu, but instead lessens the severity of the symptoms.

To prevent the spread of the disease, owners in the area of the current H3N2 epidemic should temporarily avoid taking their pet to dog parks, doggie daycare or other areas where pets congregate.

Currently, there is no evidence that the canine influenza virus can be transmitted to people. The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that the H3N2 strain has infected cats in Asia, and possibly ferrets and guinea pigs, but there haven't been any such cases reported in the U.S.

*Information supplied by Tufts University, 2015*