



Canine Influenza Testing at ISU VDL

The ISU VDL is now offering laboratory tests for canine influenza virus (CIV) or antibody. The CIV emerged from H3N8 equine influenza virus. Although the virus was initially identified in severe clinical respiratory disease cases from racing dogs (e.g., greyhounds), reports following the initial case report have demonstrated that a variety of canine breeds can be infected with the virus and that dogs in a kennel and shelter can be at greater risk for infection. A recent serological survey indicated that since 2005, CIV is steadily spreading among Iowa canine populations. This raises the need for implementing preventive measures. The CIV infection should be on your differential list for respiratory diseases.

Good sampling is essential for accurate results

Nasal swabs, tracheal swabs or tracheal washes from acutely affected animals with fever, inappetence and lethargy should be submitted for virus detection. Samples collected from dogs exhibiting coughing may be not optimal for virus testing. Antibody testing requires serum submission. Serology will have the most diagnostic significance if both an acute and convalescent sample is submitted. Samples of lung, and mid- to distal trachea both formalin-fixed and fresh can also be collected from deceased dogs for testing.

The following tests are available:

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Fee</u> | <u>Sample of choice</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| PCR (influenza A screening and H3 subtyping) | \$40.00 | swabs, tracheal washes, fresh tissues |
| Antigen-capturing ELISA | \$18.00 | swabs and tracheal washes |
| HI test (H3N8) | \$10.00 | serum |
| Immunohistochemistry | \$13.00 | fixed lung and trachea |
| Virus isolation | \$25.00 | swabs, tracheal washes, fresh tissues |

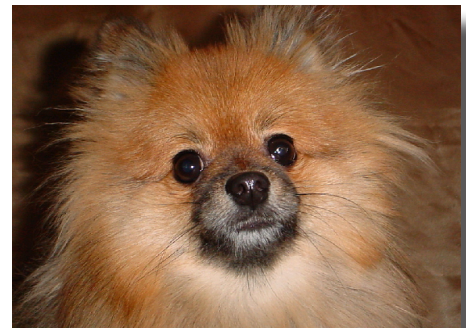


Photo courtesy of Chris Meraz

Contact:

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