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PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2023

From: Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS)
Subject: H3N2 Canine Influenza Outbreak

VENTURA COUNTY, Calif.: On March 28th, 2023, a dog who has tested positive for [H3N2 Canine Influenza](#) was impounded into our care immediately after having been transported from a shelter in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We are working in consultation with Dr. Sandra Newbury, Director of the University of Wisconsin's Shelter Medicine Program, a national expert in the field of infectious diseases to help us manage and contain this outbreak.

H3N2 only infects dogs. However, if an infected dog passes their saliva or nasal discharge to the body or clothing of a human (i.e. by coughing or sneezing on them), then that human could infect healthy dogs if they touch them. H3N2 symptoms include sneezing, nasal discharge, and frequent coughing.

At this time, 32 additional dogs at our facility in Camarillo are showing signs and symptoms of the virus but have not yet tested positive. We are at a limited admission status at the Camarillo Shelter as the virus is isolated to this location. Out of an abundance of caution, VCAS will not be taking in stray dogs at our Camarillo facility unless it is absolutely necessary. All lost dogs must go directly to the Simi Valley Animal Shelter at 670 W. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065 if there are no other options for the dog.

If you are able to house and care for lost dogs, please do so and visit www.vcas.us/lostandfound to follow the recommended steps to help locate the family of lost dogs including filling out a Found Dog report. Lost dogs can be reclaimed at the Camarillo or Simi Valley Shelter depending on the location they are being housed. For dogs reclaimed at the Camarillo Shelter, owners will be counseled to isolate the dog from other dogs for 24-28 days. Those who have adopted or reclaimed dogs from VCAS since March 28, 2023, have been notified and counseled to watch for symptoms and to follow up with their veterinarian.

Lastly, we have closed our facility in Camarillo for casual visits to help ensure the virus does not leave our facility. The adoption of cats, rabbits* and other species remain unaffected and are available by appointment only. Adoption information can be found online at www.vcas.us/adopt. Those working with animals (veterinarians, rescue groups, groups utilizing working dogs, etc.) are asked to take appropriate biosecurity measures and seek veterinary support should signs or symptoms be observed.

Additional updates will be provided as we continue to monitor the situation. For questions, please contact us at (805) 388-4341 or info@vcas.us.

Thank you,
Ventura County Animal Services

*Due to the upcoming Easter Holiday, VCAS will be suspending bunny adoptions to prevent impulse adoption and gifting of live rabbits. Rabbit adoptions will resume on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023.