



Golden Retriever Club of America®

GRCA Health and Genetics Committee Alert - Infectious respiratory disease cases reported in dogs from multiple regions

Multiple GRCA members reported cases of respiratory disease in dogs that had attended the 2023 GRCA National that was held in Oregon. Multiple organizations, including the American Kennel Club (AKC) are now recommending that owners take precautions to protect dogs. The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that veterinary diagnosticians are working to identify the cause(s) of the cases in Oregon (<https://www.avma.org/news/oregon-dealing-respiratory-illness-incidents-dogs>).

Recently, cases have been reported in multiple regions. Here are the bullets from the precautions recommended by AKC:

- Keep your dog up to date on vaccines including but not limited to Bordetella, Parainfluenza, and Canine Influenza, and avoid direct contact with other dogs.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, but is showing no symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 2 weeks. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, and is showing symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 4 weeks after all symptoms have passed. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- Absolutely do not take your dog to any events if it is showing any signs of respiratory illness such as coughing, sneezing, wheezing, any nasal discharge, lack of energy, or difficulty breathing.
- Avoid sharing water and food bowls among dogs. Dog bowls should be washed regularly.
- Regularly wash or sanitize your hands, especially after handling dogs
- If in doubt, speak to your veterinarian

The full statement regarding precautions recommended by AKC is available online <https://caninechronicle.com/current-articles/precautions-regarding-canine-upper-respiratory-illness-from-the-akc/>.

The GRCA Health and Genetics Committee urges owners to follow these precautions and to talk with their veterinarian. In addition, a scientific paper published in November highlighted the evolving nature of canine infectious respiratory disease. In cases from 2018 to 2022 studied at the University of Georgia, the most frequent virus identified was parainfluenza virus, while *Mycoplasma spp* were the most frequently isolated bacteria. In addition, the most severe cases often involved more than one infectious agent (full publication <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0817/12/11/1356/html>). While this new paper is from a relatively small region of the country and does not have data from the current outbreak, this paper highlights the importance of parainfluenza and influenza as well as the role of multiple agents in respiratory infections in dogs. Some intranasal vaccines provide combined protection against Bordetella, parainfluenza and adenovirus type 2, three different agents identified as important causes of respiratory disease in the recent

paper. The intranasal route of vaccination can also potentially provide local mucosal immunity in the respiratory tract. Bivalent influenza vaccines are available that protect against two types of influenza. This new publication and the advantages and disadvantages of local intranasal versus other routes of vaccination (oral or subcutaneous), are timely topics for discussion with the attending veterinarian. By working with the attending veterinarian to implement the best prevention strategies, we can all try to reduce the risk of respiratory disease in our dogs.