



PET HEALTH ALERT



Compiled by **Animal ER Center** • 1120 Welch Rd, Commerce, MI • 248-960-7200 • www.animalERcenter.com

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H1N1 Influenza and Your Pet

H1N1 influenza has been confirmed in ferrets, a cat, swine and in poultry. At this time there have been no confirmed cases of H1N1 virus in a pet dog or pet bird. Right now **all cases of H1N1 influenza in pets have been transmitted from the pet owners to the pets.** This news is causing concern for pet owners and veterinarians. There is of yet, no vaccine for H1N1 in pets and it would be unsafe to administer them the human vaccine. Unfortunately, there is no way to tell how serious this disease might become in pets because there are few reported cases.

While there are no confirmed cases of H1N1 in DOGS, they can become infected by a different influenza virus called canine influenza virus (H3N8). There IS a vaccine to prevent dogs from getting this virus.

There is still much about the human-to-animal transmission of the H1N1 virus that is unknown. Follow these steps to help protect your family and your pets.

Recognize the symptoms of H1N1 in your pet

The animals that have had confirmed cases of this virus have all recovered. H1N1 is highly treatable. **However it is important to spot symptoms early and seek immediate veterinary care.** The cat and ferrets with confirmed cases all showed similar signs. It is assumed that dogs would likely also have similar symptoms. They include:

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|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Lethargy | Loss of appetite | Fever |
| Runny nose and/or eyes | Coughing and sneezing | Difficulty breathing |

What you can do to keep your family and pets safe

- The most important thing is stay calm.
- Follow standard precautions for humans including washing your hands often and covering your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze.
- Avoid close contact with your pet if you have flu-like symptoms.
- Avoid allowing your pets to interact with other pets of any species.
- Keep pets inside the house or on a leash.
- If your pet shows any of the symptoms listed above, seek immediate veterinary care.
- If one of your pets shows symptoms, keep any other pets separated.
- Do not allow a pet showing symptoms to share food, water or toys with other pets.

For more information:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are monitoring the disease transmission in animals and people very closely. They will be updating their websites frequently as more information becomes available. Go to www.animalERcenter.com for links to these sites.

We want to help you keep your pet safe!

Animal ER Center of Commerce, Michigan wants to help keep your pet safe and OUT of the emergency room! **Email us at info@animalERcenter.com to get *Pet Health Alert* emailed to you FREE each month.** Also let us know if you have questions about your pet. Find back issues of *Pet Health Alert* at www.animalERcenter.com.

