CANINE INFLUENZA PRECAUTIONS

Canine Influenza and acute respiratory disease (kennel cough) have been in the news in the past two months.

If you have a dog that develops signs of any respiratory disease you should isolate it, and other dogs that have been exposed to it. AKC rules prohibit the exhibition, or the presence on the premises of a show, of dogs that exhibit signs of any contagious illness. Have your dog examined by a veterinarian.

ALL exhibitors should follow routine precautions that they would with any human influenza outbreak, or canine parvovirus outbreak. Wash your hands after handling dogs and before handling a different group of dogs.

Show the judge your dog’s bite. If handling other people’s dogs, wash hands between dogs.

Maintain sanitary conditions at your set-up and on the grounds. Keep surfaces clean. You should pick-up and dispose of dog feces in appropriate containers. Wash your hands before handling other dogs.

There was much panic with the H3N8 Canine Influenza outbreak in 2009, yet there were no cases reported from dogs at shows, or from handlers with strings of dogs. Animal Shelters, boarding kennels and dog daycare centers were the prime reservoir for that strain of the flu, and appear to be so with this strain. It is believed that the source may have originated from rescue dogs imported from Korea, and the virus then circulated in the US shelters and among rescue dogs in transit.