

## Monroe Pet Press

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### Canine Flu

In the past few years canine influenza has been seen periodically in NJ and throughout the United States.

This virus, whose scientific name is H3N8, is believed to have mutated from horses and become contagious to dogs at least five years ago. It was first recognized in 2004 after an outbreak among greyhounds at a Florida race track, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.



Today the disease is endemic in three regions: southern Wyoming and northern Colorado, Florida and the New York City metropolitan area, said Michael San Filippo, spokesman for the AVMA.

Canine flu was first reported in New Jersey after an infected dog entered a kennel near the New York border a few years ago, said Sebastian Reist, principal veterinarian for disease control in the state veterinarian's office. According to the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, an outbreak was recently seen at one of the local referral hospitals.

This virus is not transmittable to people, although humans can act as carriers and pass it on to their dogs.

As this is a new infection, dogs have no natural immunity to the virus. Almost all dogs that are exposed will develop clinical signs. These typically include cough, high fever and nasal discharge. Most cases are mild, but a severe illness can lead to pneumonia and become fatal in approximately 1-5% of cases.

In late June, Schering Plough Animal Health announced the approval of a vaccination for this illness. This vaccination should be considered for dogs at high risk of exposure, which includes individuals that go to dog parks, groomers, or boarding kennels. The vaccination series consists of two injections given two weeks apart, followed by an annual booster.

### Halloween Costume Contest

The Monroe Animal Hospital will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Halloween Pet Costume Contest on Saturday, October 24th, 2009 between 10am-1pm. Please bring your pet dressed in costume to our hospital. We will take a photo and put it up on the website for voting, which will run until November 14<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the pet that gets the most votes will be declared the winner and their owner will receive \$50 to be applied towards future veterinary care at the Monroe Animal Hospital

To the right is last year's winner, "Bugs". Who will be this year's champion? You can help decide by voting on our website, [www.monroevet.net](http://www.monroevet.net)

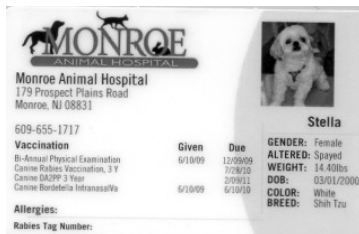


### Pet ID Cards

The Monroe Animal Hospital is now offering personalized Pet ID cards to all of our canine and feline patients. We have arranged to have credit sized cards produced with your pet's picture, vaccinations and exam dates, allergies, and microchip number. This way you will always have

your pet's information at your fingertips should it be needed.

You will also receive a keychain sized card with your pet's picture which you can proudly show to all your friends wherever you go.



We are sending these cards to all of our clients as a courtesy after all vaccinations for the current year have been updated. Additional cards can

be made up if requested for a nominal fee.

We hope you will enjoy this new service.

## Monroe Animal Hospital Receives AIS Award

At the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 town council meeting Dr. Hornstein was pleased to accept the Accessibility, Inclusion, and Sensitivity (AIS) award by the Monroe ADA Committee (Americans With Disability) for special efforts to exceed ADA requirements. These include:

- A wheelchair-friendly bath room and exam room.
- Side door access to the hospital
- Reception room floors were elevated during construction to eliminate the need for steps once inside the hospital.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

Pictured to the right is Dr. Hornstein accepting the award from Mayor Pucci and Judy Kalman at the town council meeting.



## Heatstroke Prevention

Even though summer is waning, unattended pets are still at risk for heatstroke.

Heat stroke is an extreme elevation in an animal's body temperature. Normal cat/dog temperature is 100-102.5° F (yes, higher than a human's!) Prolonged temperatures above about 104° F can be dangerous, and it is not unusual for a heatstroke patient to have a temperature of 106-108° F or higher! At these temperatures, damage to individual cells can occur, leading to dehydration, systemic shock, brain damage, blood clotting derangement, organ failure and death.

Treatment involves cooling the patient, giving intravenous fluids and medications to treat shock and dehydration and hopefully prevent permanent damage to the brain and other organs.

Any animal exposed to high temperatures can develop heatstroke. A common scenario is a dog left in the car while an owner runs into the grocery store to pick up a few things. To keep the dog from jumping out of the car or being stolen, the windows are closed (or maybe cracked a little at the top). In this situation, the temperature in a car can rise to 120° F within minutes.

Younger animals (puppies and kittens), senior pets, overweight animals, squashed-face animals, and sick animals, especially those with heart or respiratory problems, are more prone to heat problems as well. They can suffer heatstroke from a vigorous play session or a too-long walk on a hot day.

So, how do you prevent that emergency trip to the vet with your hot doggie? Always keep plenty of fresh water available. Play and exercise on moderately on hot days should take place during the cooler hours of the day. Let the at-risk pets rest. If you keep your animals outside, provide shade and well-ventilated housing. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you leave an animal alone in a closed vehicle, even with the windows cracked open slightly.

If your pet gets overheated, try to take its temperature. The digital rectal thermometers from the drugstore are safe, fast and inexpensive. If the temperature is over 104° F, start cooling with tepid water and call us immediately.

## Upcoming Events

Stop by to see us. We'll be at the Monroe County Fair in Thompson Park on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> and the Monroe Octoberfest on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the date. Santa is coming Saturday December 12!! Bring your pets for a free picture. More information will be posted to our website soon.**