



# *Sheltie Shenanigans*

*Official Newsletter of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater San Diego, Inc.*

*June 2015*

## **June Meeting**

**Monday, June 22, 2015**

**7:00 pm**

**San Diego Humane Society**

**5480 Gaines St**

**San Diego, CA 92110**

**(858-485-7011)**



**Refreshments**

**Joan Sturgeon**

Please remember to provide drinks of some kind along with cups, napkins and paper plates. **Also, if you are unable to fulfill your refreshment duty it is your responsibility to obtain a replacement.** Thanks!!

**2015 Officers**

**President: Beth Sullivan**

**Vice President: Dawn Handmacher**

**Secretary: Candy Brooks**

**Treasurer: Shelley Bakalis**

**Board of Directors**

**Steve Brooks, Lauren Cremascoli , Penny McGirt, Linda McCoard**

**Club Website**

**[www.Sandiegosheltieclub.org](http://www.Sandiegosheltieclub.org)**

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**Upcoming Events**

**June 20**

**Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southern Calif.**

AKC "B" Match

Irvine Regional Park

Irvine Park Rd.

Orange, CA 92869

Sweeps Entries: 9:00 am – 9:45 am

Conformation Entries: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**June 22**

**Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater San Diego Meeting**

**July11-12**

**Cabrillo Kennel Club**

AKC Conformation

Bates Nut Farm

15954 Woods Valley Rd.

Valley Center, CA

Entries close: June 24 at Noon

Superintendent: Jack Bradshaw

Parking Fee: \$7 per day/\$10 two days

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# 2015 Dog Flu Virus Q and A: Canine Influenza Still On The Rise

by  
ThoughtsFurPaws.com

Flu season may be winding down for humans, but there have been over 1,000 reported cases of canine influenza in Chicago, causing some local vets to call the situation an “epidemic.” The outbreak also spread to dogs across the Midwest, and infected many pooches right here in Cleveland.

To help dog owners better understand the virus, here are some key facts from the American Veterinary Medical Association:

## **What is canine influenza?**

Canine influenza (CI), or dog flu, is a highly contagious infection caused by an influenza A subtype H3N8 virus first discovered in 2004.

## **What are common symptoms of the infection in dogs?**

In the mild form, the most common sign is a cough that persists for 2-3 weeks. However, some dogs can develop signs of severe pneumonia, such as a high-grade fever (104o F to 106o F) and faster breathing. Other signs in infected dogs include nasal and/or ocular discharge, sneezing, fatigue and refusing food.

## **Is every dog at risk of infection?**

All dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection.

## **How does it spread?**

Canine influenza is spread from dog to dog through the air, contaminated objects (kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes) and people interacting with infected and uninfected dogs. On surfaces, the virus is alive and can infect dogs for up to 48 hours, on clothing for 24 hours and on hands for 12 hours.

## **Can veterinarians test for canine influenza?**

The most reliable and sensitive method for confirmation is serologic testing. Antibodies to canine influenza virus can appear in blood as early as seven (7) days after symptoms begin, and the virus may be identified in nasal or pharyngeal swabs during the first four (4) days of illness.

## **Any treatment options?**

In May 2009, the USDA approved the first influenza vaccine for dogs. Trials have shown that it can significantly reduce the duration of illness, including the incidence and severity of damage to the lungs. Dog owners should consult with their vet to determine whether the vaccine is appropriate for their dog.

## **Can canine influenza infect people?**

There is no evidence that the virus can be transmitted from dogs to humans.

I want to note here also that both Bordetella and the influenza virus have symptoms that mimic one another. In about 20 percent of cases, more severe symptoms occur including high fever and pneumonia. A small number of dogs with the virus have died from complications of the disease.

For more information about canine influenza virus, visit the American Veterinary Medicine Association or the Center for Disease Control.

## How To Get Rid Of Ticks On Your Dogs Quickly and Efficiently!

With summer on its way, it is inevitable that your dog will be outside playing and tromping through grass and fields. You and your pup will be out on walks, hikes and anywhere and everywhere where fleas and/or ticks usually linger. Therefore, it's always a good idea that you implement a tick check on your dog after your dog has spent some time outdoors.

### **Do a tick check on your dog's body and then check your family**

Don't count on repellents to do the work for you as it can take one to two days for an attached tick to transmit an infection to its host, your dog, and it's important to promptly get rid of these parasites. First, run your fingers slowly over your dog's entire body. If you feel a bump or swollen area, check to see if a tick has burrowed there. Don't limit your search to your dog's torso: check between his toes, under his armpits, the insides of his ears and around his face and chin.

### **How To Get Rid Of Ticks**

Make sure to check for ticks on your family members. Dogs can't directly transmit tick-borne illnesses to people, but ticks can move from host to host. A tick may enter your home on your dog's back and move on to another pet or person, or a tick could hitch a ride on you and then move on to one of your pets. A good tick prevention strategy includes checking all family members for these parasites, especially after outdoor activities in wooded, grassy areas.

### **What does a tick look like?**

Ticks can be black, brown or tan, and they have eight legs. Ticks are arachnids and related to spiders, not insects. They can also be tiny (some tick species are only as large as the head of a pin) so look carefully. Be sure to check inside and behind his ears and around his eyes—all favorite tick hiding places.

Ticks transmit several diseases that can cause severe illness and even death in both dogs and humans, so keeping your dog tick-free is a top priority. Huge numbers of tick eggs hatch each spring, and the young ticks climb onto grasses and other vegetation. Their sticky shells help them to cling to passing animals, including your adventurous pet dog.

Ticks quickly climb down the hair, attach to the skin, and begin to suck blood, only dropping off hours or days later when they are engorged. In the meantime, any microorganisms

that were hitching a ride inside this insect traveler are transmitted to your dog through the tick's mouth.

### **Use a tick and flea protection during the spring and summer months**

Use a tick preventive during the spring and summer months. Several products on the market kill both fleas and ticks. You can apply these products monthly to the skin at the back of your dog's neck. Ask your veterinarian to recommend the most effective product for your dog. But, as mentioned above, always check for ticks after an outdoor outing in addition to a flea and tick prevention product.

If your dog has a tick on him or her, follow the below steps to get rid of the ticks.

1. Make sure to have a pair of gloves, a clean pair of tweezers or a commercial tick remover, antiseptic and Isopropyl alcohol. Wear gloves if you remove with your fingers.

2. Use a pair of tweezers to grasp the head of the tick where it attaches to the skin.

3. Pull on the tick gently and steadily. If you yank the tick away from your dog too quickly, you'll leave part of the tick's mouth behind, which can cause an infection.

4. In about 20 to 30 seconds, the tick's mouth will release its grasp and the tick will come away cleanly. Dab some disinfectant on your dog on the bitten area, being extremely careful if you're around your dog's eyes and kill the tick by placing it in alcohol.

5. Next, save the dead tick in a resealable plastic bag, labeled with the date on which the tick was found. This may sound weird and kind of gross, but if your dog becomes ill, you may need to identify the species of tick that bit him.

Never remove a tick with your bare hands, and never crush a tick between your fingers. If you do, you put yourself at risk of contracting Lyme disease or one of the other tick-borne diseases.

If your dog becomes ill and you recently found a tick on him, make sure to call your vet immediately. Most tick-borne diseases can be treated successfully if a diagnosis is made immediately and appropriate treatment initiated. With daily tick checks and/or prevention, you can avoid anything serious.

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