

Dec. 1, 2023

Dear Tennessee Veterinarian,

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division is requesting your help with tracking of cases of a respiratory illness with an unknown cause in dogs. The State Veterinarian's office has not received confirmed reports of this mysterious canine disease in Tennessee. However, we are working to document any cases for which there is no etiology identified with laboratory testing to the USDA VS Unusual Mortality and Morbidity Event Project.

Since the cause has not been identified and the illness is not an APHIS-regulated animal disease, no surveillance information is available. To aid in documentation of occurrence of cases in Tennessee we are requesting that veterinary practices presented with a case of atypical canine infectious respiratory disease notify us and share associated lab results.

Please email [Animal.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Animal.Health@tn.gov) if your practice sees any case of atypical respiratory disease where no cause is determined, any increase in respiratory illness among patients, or if an animal under your care for a respiratory illness doesn't respond to treatment. Reporting to the Animal Health Division is voluntary.

If deceased animals or tissue samples are brought to our Kord Diagnostic Laboratory in Nashville, we can perform diagnostics to determine a cause of death.

Please continue recommending to your clients to fully vaccinate their pets for all respiratory diseases in canines and use an abundance of caution when comingling animals. While exact transmission of the disease is unknown, I recommend limiting interaction between dogs of unknown vaccination status at places such as dog parks, boarding facilities, doggie daycare, and grooming facilities.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,



Samantha Beaty, D.V.M.  
Tennessee State Veterinarian  
Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health