

# Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

Volume 16 Issue 1

February 2018

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## Blue Ravine Welcomes A New Veterinarian

Dr. Finochio is a graduate of The University of Melbourne Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. She worked for 4 years as a volunteer and Veterinary Assistant at clinics in Citrus Heights and Orangevale prior to attending veterinary school.

Dr. Finochio received a Bachelor of Animal Science at UC Davis. Her veterinary interests include surgery, clinical pathology and ultrasonography. She is a member of the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), CVMA (California Veterinary Medical Association) and SVVMA (Sacramento Valley Veterinary Medical Association).

Dr. Finochio is the proud owner of Meeka, her native Australian mutt, and Rhône, her newly acquired Golden Retriever puppy.



In her free time Dr. Finochio enjoys hiking, swimming, kayaking, spending time with her family and any activity that involves her dogs.

Dra. Finochio puede comunicarse en Español.

## 2018 Canine Influenza—The “ Dog Flu”

In the last few weeks there have been confirmed cases of Canine Influenza H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, known as dog flu, in our area. Canine Influenza is a highly contagious virus. There are two variants of the virus—H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>8</sub> and H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>. They are host specific and they're found all over the world. As news coverage increases about dog flu (or influenza) in California, we wanted to provide you with some basic facts about the condition.

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# The Dog Flu

(Dog Flu—Continued from page 1)

The two strains of the virus were first recognized in greyhounds around 2003, and they've since been diagnosed in over 36 states. There's some controversy over where it originates from; some experts think it came from horse influenza and some think from avian influenza.

We used to think that we really didn't have the flu here in California, but obviously, it's like the flu with humans—once it gets started it just spreads. The first cases of dogs with the flu came from kennels and boarding facilities; now some of them have shut down to limit the spread. In the meantime, we are offering a vaccine for our clients.

While we do carry the influenza vaccine, it is not considered a *core* vaccine, but you may want to consider it if your pet frequents dog parks, groomers, boarding facilities, doggie day care, dog shows or other public dog events.

Our vaccine covers both strains of the virus, which does not spread to humans and doesn't seem to cross over to different species. Cats can sometimes catch the virus from infected dogs but there is no flu vaccine for cats at this time.

## What are the Symptoms of the Dog Flu?

Dog flu symptoms are respiratory in nature and can vary from dog to dog. Some dogs have no symptoms, while others become severely ill. The symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Runny nose
- Eye discharge
- Coughing
- Vomiting

**Some dogs are catching the flu in four US states. But there's no reason to panic.**

**These viruses are different from the ones that cause influenza in people. You can't get the flu from your puppy, and vice versa (but your cat can). In the past 45 days (as of mid-January), at least 70 dogs tested positive for the flu in California, 22 in Kentucky, and just a handful in Ohio and Michigan, according to the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, which keeps track of dog flu cases in the US.**



A dog may have the canine virus yet not show any symptoms, and it could still spread the virus. The severity of illness associated with canine flu in dogs can range from no signs to severe illness resulting in pneumonia and sometimes death. Most dogs will recover within 2 to 3 weeks, however, other dogs develop secondary bacterial infections

which may lead to more severe illness and pneumonia. Anyone with concerns about their pet's health, or whose pet is showing signs of canine influenza, should contact their veterinarian. Please note that if your dog is already coughing, it's too late to give the vaccine. You need to call your veterinarian in this case because your pet may need medication and supportive care.

## How is Canine Influenza Infection in Dogs Treated?

Treatment largely consists of supportive care. This helps the dog mount an immune response. In the milder form of the flu, care may include medication to make your dog more comfortable and fluids to ensure that your dog remains well-hydrated. Broad spectrum antibiotics may be prescribed by your veterinarian if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

## How Serious is Canine Influenza Infection in Dogs?

To reiterate, the percentage of dogs infected with this disease that die is very small. Some dogs have no signs of illness, while some have severe infections. Severe illness is characterized by the onset of pneumonia.

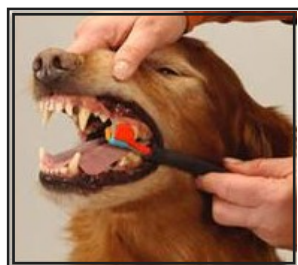
If your dog is ill with the flu you will need to quarantine him or her from other canines for 4-5 weeks to prevent the spread of this flu.

If your dog is not vaccinated already for canine influenza, we recommend that you call the hospital to discuss whether this vaccine is appropriate for your dog—(916) 984-0990.

## Pet Dental Health

While February is National Pet Dental Health Month, dental health should be a daily ritual for pet owners all year long.

Dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health, and dental problems can cause, or be caused by, other health problems. Your pet's teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian to check for early signs of a problem and



to keep your pet's mouth healthy. Brushing should take place daily. Regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between cleanings, and it may reduce the frequency for periodic dental

cleaning. But if that is not always possible brushing several times a week can be effective. Most dogs accept brushing but cats can resist more, so patience and training are important.

A dental exam begins with an oral exam of your pet's mouth. Radiographs (x-rays) are used to evaluate the health of the jaw and the tooth roots below the gumline. Most dental disease occurs below the gumline where you can't see it, so a thorough dental cleaning and evaluation are performed under anesthesia. Dental cleaning includes scaling the teeth to remove dental plaque and tartar, and polishing, similar to the process used on your own teeth during regular dental cleanings.

Although cavities are less common in pets than in people, pets can have many of the same dental problems that people can develop:

- Broken teeth and roots
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or infected teeth
- Cysts or tumors in the mouth
- Malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- Broken (fractured) jaw
- Palate defects (such as cleft palate)

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats – by the time your pet is 3 years old, he or she will very likely have some early evidence of gum disease, which will worsen as your pet grows older if effective preventive measures aren't taken. Early detection and treatment are critical, because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet.



Periodontal disease starts with plaque that hardens into tartar. The tartar above the gumline can often be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gumline is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jaw bone.

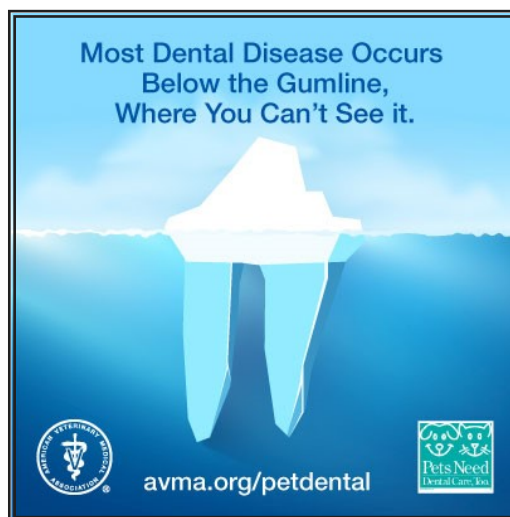
But gum disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth—it can also cause kidney, liver, and heart muscle problems.

Why perform dental cleanings under anesthesia? Anesthesia makes it possible to perform the procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving around and risking injury from the dental equipment. If x-rays are needed, your pet needs to be very still in order to get good images, and this is unlikely without heavy sedation or anesthesia.

Although anesthesia will always have risks, it's safer now than ever and continues to improve so

that the risks are very low and are far outweighed by the benefits. Most pets can go home the same day of the procedure.

Help your pet achieve the best health ever—call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital at 916-984-0990 today to schedule your pet's dental check-up.





1770 Prairie City Road  
Folsom, CA 95630  
Phone: 916 984-0990  
Fax: 916 984-6510



**February is Pet Dental Health Month! Call for your pet's checkup today.**

## BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111 or  
Vista Veterinary Specialists, 916 231-4445.

[www.blueravineanimalhospital.com](http://www.blueravineanimalhospital.com)

## Pet Dental Health Month

**Receive \$50 Off a  
Professional Dental Cleaning  
(Limit: one [1] per family)**

BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
1770 Prairie City Rd. in Folsom, CA 95630

916-984-0990



All of our dental packages include radiographs, sevoflurane anesthesia, pulse oximeter monitoring, ultrasonic cleaning, and fluoride polishing supervised by the veterinarian.

Extractions, antibiotics, and specialty procedures are available at an additional charge.

**Coupon expires March 31, 2018**