



BREVARD County

BREVARD ANIMAL SERVICES AND ENFORCEMENT

Public Information Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canine distemper outbreak at Brevard County south shelter

Brevard County Animal Services along with the assistance of Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine has identified a canine distemper outbreak in the South Animal Care Center, located at 5100 W. Eau Gallie Blvd and is working to contain this outbreak.

Brevard County Animal Services is encouraging all dog and ferret owners to contact their veterinarian to make sure their pets are up-to-date with vaccinations. This virus is preventable with proper vaccinations.

Canine distemper virus is easily transmittable from wildlife to pets running at large. The virus looks like a common cold or kennel cough at the beginning of an infection, then spreads the same way a cold does. However, unlike a cold, this virus can quickly progress to pneumonia and death. It is not transmissible to cats or humans, but is transmissible to ferrets. Puppies are at the greatest risk. In consideration of this outbreak, it is more important than ever for pet owners to keep their pets well vaccinated and safely confined where they won't come in contact with unvaccinated or sick animals.

Brevard County Animal Services vaccinates all dogs against distemper upon entry into their shelter. However, sometimes that is too late as the animals have already been exposed prior to entering the shelter.

In order to prevent the public from inadvertently adopting a dog that is incubating this disease, we have temporarily suspended our dog adoption program at both shelters. The adoption program will resume after all animals at the shelter test free of the disease. Brevard County Animal Services will issue a press release once the outbreak has been contained.

