

# ISIS Gazette

October 2009



## **Swine Flu**

The latest flu strain to hit the headlines (H1N1) - known popularly as "Swine Flu" is a strain of Influenza Type A. While the normal version of "Swine Flu" causes outbreaks of influenza with low mortality rates in pigs, the strain which is currently causing human deaths is not the same virus. The new strain combines genes from human, pig, and bird flu and is similar to the strain that caused "Spanish Flu", responsible for a human pandemic in 1918. "Swine Flu" is an entirely different virus to the "[Bird Flu](#)" which was widely talked about last year, and among the most important differences is that "Bird Flu" infected humans who had direct contact with [infected birds](#), where as "Swine Flu" is being transmitted from human to human.

## **Flu in Dogs**

Type A Influenza viruses also include equine influenza (H3N8), which in 2004 was discovered to be responsible for Canine Influenza. Because of the lack of previous exposure to this virus, dogs have no natural immunity to this virus.

## **Conclusions**

In general, influenza viruses are not transmitted from one species to another. For example, dogs and cat do not develop flu after exposure to owners with a seasonal flu virus. While it is theoretically possible for a new influenza strain to be transmissible between humans and other domestic animals, it is likely that such a strain would be transmissible between only humans and one other animal. Because the "Swine Flu" virus contains genetic elements of human, pig and avian flu viruses, it would seem very unlikely that this strain would have the ability to infect hosts which are not humans, pigs or birds. And, according to the American [Veterinary Medicine](#) Association (AVMA), "there is no evidence that pets are susceptible to this new strain of influenza; it appears to be transmitted solely from person to person".

All birds and mammals can be infected with a form of influenza virus, of which there are three types (A, B and C). Humans can be infected by forms of all three, but most flu varieties in animals and humans that cause serious health concerns are Influenza Type A. Viruses can mutate rapidly, and because hosts' immune systems do not initially protect against new mutations, new strains can subsequently cause widespread infection. Often new strains result from the spread of an existing flu virus from one species to another, which provides the virus with the necessary tools to transmit between members of a different species to its usual host.



Mitzzy is a beautiful and tiny little princess. She is already showing what a sweet personality she has. Curious and playful she will charm you and everyone she meets. You can see more of her at <http://bobcatsworld.com>

*Congratulations!*



**Raini from The Shih Tzu is our  
Photo Contest Winner!**

Thank you to everyone that entered and voted.  
I can't wait to see the photos for next month.  
The theme is fall or Thanksgiving.

PIL  
 UAGKXYNVY  
 UZEBJWTEYDLKI  
 BVSGYRJRHENCWEZSJ  
 ZGJHTZAASVALUCARDGT  
 SONLSOFPCECZLUPNPJPDD  
 CNIKPMUPKTMTAIWITCHVI  
 TARTTL VWZUN LFHJGG  
 LRSEVR VCIGT ZWQLTB  
 DOYATENAOKCXFXESMMTQSLEAY  
 NQICTAYIVRVNXNRIOPURZTMDQ  
 IAFSDCSCKVHFNONKBCEZIYEZW  
 XDWNAYNRFXOTUOIEZDUUNTJLCW  
 VAOGIZVKVEPANFDWPIABSCKPQWU  
 MMPUSGCFAOEKQSQHICYLIFOGBOHZ  
 CQPP LUMRGAVDUKCIRTW GXCK  
 JCDL MTVXFKRRCTOZA KJKT  
 VEIUE DRESSXNHIVI KWUHQ  
 TESEN GZSGM  
 MATXGV ZIDIXO  
 WSPBLPLOKNRWPCJZAYNXN  
 EBDLUGZXATJKLMETUMVZU  
 MCPLLNIMCGBOKNSMWGX  
 DVRTJNCURYBHBKA  
 TKBWNKBJGWYQN  
 OATLKWXGQ  
 CWU

TRICK OR	TREAT	PARTY	APPLE	WITCH	PUMPKIN
SCARY	DRESS UP	KIDS	NIGHT	MONSTER	LANTERN
COSTUME	FUN	CANDY	CIDER	DRACULA	JACK

## Administering Pet Medication

- Having a sick pet at home is tough enough without the added stress of medication.
- Some dogs and cats take their medicine with ease while others need a little coercing.
- No matter how difficult it may be to get your dog or cat to take medication, it is important to follow your veterinarian's instructions carefully.

### **Pills or Capsules - Step-by-Step**

#### **PetFirst Tip**

- Ask your veterinarian if your pet's medication can be given with food. If so, trying placing the pill in a small treat.

1. Hold the pill between your thumb and index finger.
2. Firmly grasp your pet's upper jaw with your other hand tilting your pet's head back gently.
3. Using your middle finger, slowly open the lower jaw.
4. Keep your middle finger over the small incisor teeth and deposit the pill as far back on the tongue as possible.
5. Close the mouth immediately while keeping your hand over the mouth.
6. Stroke the throat or blow gently into your pet's nostrils. This will encourage your pet to swallow.

### **Liquids and Syrups - Step-by-Step**

1. Fill the syringe or dropper with medication before beginning.
2. Insert the syringe or dropper between your pet's teeth and cheek.
3. Close your pet's mouth and tilt the head back slightly.
4. Gently release the medication from the syringe or dropper.
5. Keep the mouth closed and stroke the throat or blow gently into your pet's nostrils.

- Make sure you stay calm when you are administering medication. You pets can perceive your stress making them more nervous. Praise and a reward after your pet successfully takes their medicine is always a good idea.

Contributed by [Pet First Health Care](#)

[Pet Article](#) courtesy of <http://pet-articles.blogspot.com>.



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