

As a follow up to my post about Canine Influenza (CI), here is our recommendation for those of you attending GiG (or any other greyhound event this season):

We have been getting lots of questions about canine influenza and have consulted with both Dr. Couto and Dr. Metzger and here's what we know:

- CI has been around for a long time, and it is not fatal unless it is undiagnosed or untreated in time.
- Healthy dogs will not spread the virus
- There is an outbreak of a "new" strain of CI in the Midwest (Chicago) but no cases have been reported anywhere else.
- The flu vaccines currently available may or may not be effective; this should be a conversation between you and your vet if you're considering it.
- The virus is spread via the air--sneezing, coughing, etc., just like human flu/colds.
- Symptoms can progress to more serious issues (pneumonia) so any coughing, sneezing or fever should be addressed immediately.
- If your dog is acting sick or actually showing symptoms, please don't bring them into the crowd at GiG and by all means, get to your vet.

The bottom line is that we all need to be responsible; if you have a dog with symptoms, get him/her medical attention. If your dog is healthy, there should be no reason for concern. If we get more information, we will post it here. We're trying to be responsible and keep everyone safe, but there's no reason to panic. (Thanks to Toni Duchi for this updated information!). -Brian

[Source: The Greyhound Initiative Facebook Page](#)