



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
**ANIMAL CENTER**  
100 United Lane Teterboro, N.J. 07608  
Phone: (201) 229-4600  
Fax: (201) 440-4358

Kathleen A. Donovan  
County Executive

Nancy Mangiery  
Department Director

Matthew Craig  
Shelter Manager

Mariela J. Pazos, DVM  
Shelter Veterinarian

*October 5, 2011*

*Dear Bergen County Animal Shelter Visitors,*

*We currently have a higher than normal number of dogs showing signs of upper respiratory infection (URI) and we have identified **Canine Influenza** as one of the possible causes.*

*Canine Influenza is a relatively new disease caused by a "flu" virus (similar to the human flu). Although it is overall not a serious disease, it can be **very contagious**. A few cases can also progress to significant illness and pneumonia.*

*It is spread through direct contact between dogs (licking, nuzzling) **even while dogs are not currently coughing or showing any other signs of illness.***

***As a precautionary health measure and to reduce risk to the communities' pet population, we are currently not carrying out any dog adoptions. In addition, we recommend that anyone who owns a dog or frequently comes in contact with dogs not visit the shelter until otherwise stated on our website. We expect this to continue until approximately the middle of October.***

*This disease affects only dogs and does NOT affect humans. If your dog has been at the shelter anytime from September 15<sup>th</sup> until now, please do not allow your dog to interact with other dogs. If your dog develops any coughing, sneezing, or shows any signs of disease, please call your veterinarian **before** bringing you dog to the hospital and inform them that he/she may have been exposed to Canine Influenza.*

*Our dogs will continue to be monitored and treated by the shelter veterinarian on a daily basis. Currently all the dogs affected are stable and responding to supportive treatment; antibiotics, fluids, home-cooked meals and lots of TLC!!!  
Thank you for your continued support and cooperation*

*Dr. Pazos*