



Dear Valued Clients,

As 2023 ends and we look to the New Year I know that concerns of the Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex that the news has reported is “sweeping our state and the nation” is on the minds of pet owners everywhere. It is important to keep the facts in perspective; **canine influenza is not new** and circulates regularly similarly to the flu in humans, as a boarding and training facility this is a topic that we take seriously. Both myself and our kennel supervisor hold **current certifications in canine infectious disease prevention**. Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex, believed to be new cluster of the canine influenza is making news due to its sudden onset and, as of December 28th 2023, the Washington State Department of Agriculture reports on their website that there are **only two verified cases in the state of WA**. The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that most dogs fully recover in 7 to 10 days. However, in young puppies, elderly, and immune compromised dogs some do not respond to treatment. The AVMA currently is recommending that you vaccinate your dog for canine influenzas and avoid taking your dog to areas with **active** outbreaks. The **two confirmed cases in WA does not constitute an outbreak**, but please consult your veterinarian before traveling with your dogs!

Here at AOCB our standard has been, and continues to be, conducting our regular **daily cleaning with hospital grade Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner**. This practice was in place pre-Covid to minimize the chances for the seasonal canine influenzas to spread here and remains the best method for minimizing the risk of communicable diseases in dogs. It remains my sincere hope that you know and trust we do the best we can, exceeding industry norms, to ensure your dog(s) are healthy and well cared for when at our facility.

Should the uncertainty of the day and age we now live in leave you feeling less than comfortable with attending a facility at this time, we understand. But we also understand that there are many dogs that need help now and we are still here to help and support your training needs.

It is my pleasure to announce that in order to ensure you have access to the best training, we will be offering IN-HOME behavioral evaluations and private lessons.

Due to the high costs of traveling all “in-home services” (where we come to you), including behavioral evaluations, will be offered as stand-alone charged services. **We will however continue to offer our FREE Behavioral Evaluations at our facility as we have since 1981**. If you wish to schedule an in-home behavioral evaluation or lessons please call us at **425-486-9567** for pricing and to schedule for the new year.

On a personal note: As many of you may know my home is on property at our facility but with in-home behavioral evaluations now I get to look forward to seeing you at your homes for a change. I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2024 and hope to see you soon at our house or yours!!

Sincerely,

Russell Nelson
Director of Operations