Orange County Animal Services
Canine Distemper Management

Orange County Animal Services received close to 24,000 animals at its shelter. Keeping these animals healthy is a priority. If you are here to adopt or reclaim your pet, please read this information carefully.

Canine Distemper Concerns:

• *Canine Distemper Virus*, is a highly contagious, incurable, often fatal, viral disease that presents the same symptoms as other upper respiratory diseases. In Orange County:
  ▪ We are on HIGH alert for this disease
  ▪ Last shelter outbreak was in July 2009
  ▪ We are currently experiencing signs of distemper in our facility

Shelter Disease Management:

• Although we have very strict cleaning procedures we occasionally experience disease outbreaks
• The diseases we see in our shelter are a reflection of what is happening in our community – disease is not created at our shelter, it is brought by animals we impound
• Shelter overcrowding contributes to disease spread. Our daily average shelter population was 440 animals in 2009
• Although Animal Services has no medical history for animals entering the shelter, every attempt is made to adopt a healthy pet
• All animals are vaccinated upon impound
• Starting Feb. 2, 2010 the Animal Services clinic will temporarily suspend spay/neuter surgeries for publicly owned animals

While visiting our shelter, be part of the solution!

• **DO NOT TOUCH THE ANIMALS THROUGH THE CAGE**
• **THOROUGHLY WASH HANDS BETWEEN ANIMAL INTERACTION**

*At home, please vaccinate your own pets and do not allow them to run loose

Canine Distemper is not known to affect cats. In some cases, cats coming in contact with the canine distemper virus can spread it to dogs through physical contact, but cats are not actual carriers of the disease. Feline Panleukopenia or PanLeuk is often incorrectly referred to as "Feline Distemper" thereby causing confusion.