

Treasured k9s is a non-profit dog rescue specializing in a rare breed: the Korean Jindo. We are the only rescue dedicated to the breed outside of California and as such we've pulled dogs from shelters across the East Coast and even Canada. We have noticed that while upper respiratory infection (URI) is common among all shelters, the strains coming out of the NYC AC&C system are far worse than we've seen from other shelters. We have pulled dogs from comparable urban Animal Control facilities such as Baltimore County Animal Services, Associated Humane Society of NJ Newark, and ACCT Philly. The dogs from these facilities with URIs were easily treated with doxycycline and recovered by the end of a couple weeks at most and their symptoms were not severe. By comparison, the dogs we've pulled from the NYC AC&C system with URIs have not responded quickly to doxycycline and our vets have started prescribing chloramphenicol and temaril-P because the URI symptoms are severe with excessive nasal discharge, lethargy and coughing. Treatment with doxycycline alone takes in excess of 4 weeks in most cases. We pulled two seriously ill dogs, one with what turned out to be canine influenza and one with serious pneumonia that eventually claimed his life.

This statement is not a criticism of the NYC AC&C system but a true comparison from our firsthand experience with the dogs. The animals coming from the NYC AC&C system are coming out with strains of URI that are much worse than comparable shelters. For the sake of the animals, we hope the DOH will take serious action to research and fix the problem.

Kristen Edmonds

President, Treasured k9s