

Multnomah County Animal Services

Streptococcus Zooepidemicus (SZ) Information for Dog Owners 2026



Streptococcus zooepidemicus (SZ) is a bacterium normally found in horses and other farm animals. When immunocompromised dogs become infected by the bacterium it can cause sudden, severe cases of fatal pneumonia that is very dangerous for the dog. It is spread through contact with saliva and nasal secretions, and is highly contagious between dogs.

We strongly recommend seeking immediate emergency veterinary care if you notice any of the following signs in your pet(s):

- Fever (normal temperature for dogs is between 99.5 and 102.5 degrees Farenheit)
- Bloody discharge from the dog's nose or mouth
- Sudden decrease in appetite and/or energy level
- Difficulty breathing - this is considered an emergency

MCAS is unable to reimburse for treatment sought at outside veterinary clinics

Treatment:

- SZ can be treated with broad spectrum antibiotics and should be started as soon as symptoms are present
- Treating the symptoms and providing supportive care as soon as possible gives the best chance for recovery
- There are other common respiratory conditions affecting dogs (such as kennel cough) that may show similar symptoms such as coughing, sneezing and discharge from the eyes/nose.

At Home:

- There is no vaccination to protect against SZ
- Quarantine your dog for **14 days** from all other dogs in the home and avoid bringing them to public places where other dogs are present (groomer, boarding kennel, park, ect)