



## **Canine Influenza in the news again!**

**Dog flu is a contagious respiratory disease in dogs caused by a specific Type A influenza virus. This is a disease of dogs, not of humans. The “canine influenza virus” is an influenza A H3N8 influenza virus (not a human influenza virus) that was originally an equine (horse) influenza virus. This virus has spread to dogs and can now spread between dogs.**

**The symptoms of this illness in dogs are cough, runny nose, and fever. A small proportion of dogs, however, can develop severe disease. CIV cannot easily be distinguished from other causes of respiratory infection based on clinical signs alone. It is often mistaken for kennel cough and other respiratory infections caused by pathogens in the canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD) complex because of shared clinical signs. CIRD complex is a relatively new term used to describe respiratory disease in dogs that may be caused by a number of co-mingled viral or bacterial pathogens. Some of the better-known pathogens are distemper virus, adenovirus type 2, parainfluenza, canine herpesvirus and *Bordetella*.**

**This is a relatively new cause of disease in dogs and nearly all dogs who are naive to the virus are susceptible to infection. About 80% of dogs will have a mild form of disease. The number of dogs infected with this disease that die is between 5–8% percent. About 20% of infected dogs will show no clinical signs, while 10–20% of infected dogs may progress to a more severe form of the disease. Severe illness is characterized by the onset of pneumonia.**

**Because CIV is a new disease, virtually every dog not previously exposed to the virus will become infected. Many dogs are candidates for the vaccine because of routine contact with other dogs who may be carrying the virus, congregating in such places as dog parks, veterinary clinics, boarding kennels, breeding kennels, dog shows, training settings, shelters, adoption centers, pet shops, and other locations.**

**The vaccine is given by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection initially in two doses, 2 to 4 weeks apart. Thereafter it is recommended that the vaccine be administered annually along with the *Bordetella*, canine parainfluenza, and adenovirus type 2 vaccines to provide more comprehensive protection against canine infectious respiratory diseases.**

**More specific information at: [www.doginfluenza.com/pdfs/backgrounder.pdf](http://www.doginfluenza.com/pdfs/backgrounder.pdf)  
[www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com) and click on “News and Resources”**

**We do have the vaccine available. Each dose is \$26. Initially two doses are required about 2 to 4 weeks apart, with single annual boosters thereafter.**

**Please do not hesitate to call us at 649-4111 if you have any other questions.**