

CANINE INFLUENZA NOTICE

Recent outbreaks of canine influenza (H3N8) in New Jersey have prompted area boarding facilities to require the canine influenza vaccine for all guests. The first vaccine is given in two visits 2-4 weeks apart. Your dog will not be considered vaccinated until two weeks after their second shot. If you are planning on making a boarding reservation for your dog over the holidays we strongly urge you to schedule an appointment today. Each successive year will require a single booster shot. However, some boarding facilities are requiring a vaccine every six months rather than yearly so please check with your boarding facility about their specific requirements.

What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza is a viral respiratory infection with symptoms similar to Bordetella, including runny nose, cough, lethargic behavior, loss of appetite and fever. Because this is a new virus in dogs, virtually all dogs that are exposed will become infected and up to 20% of them may develop a severe form exhibiting high fever and pneumonia.

What are my dogs' risk factors?

Canine Influenza is a new virus in the dog community and as a result they lack any pre-existing immunity. All dogs exposed to the virus will contract the virus. Dogs who are housed together where there is a high turnover are at the highest risk. Therefore dog parks, pet stores, shelters, grooming salons, daycare centers and boarding facilities are considered high risk locations. Canine Influenza is not a seasonal infection and can occur year round. If your dog stays at home, doesn't socialize with other dogs and only walks around the neighborhood they would not be considered at risk.

Is the vaccine safe?

In a study of over 700 dogs with 30 breeds and an age range of six weeks to ten years there were no adverse reactions to the vaccine and it was classified as well tolerated. In the past year over 500,000 vaccinations were given with no reported adverse reactions and has continued to be well-tolerated. The vaccinated was granted full license in June, 2010 by the USDA after one year of use with a provisional license.

