

### ***What is Canine Influenza?***

Just like people, dogs can be affected by different strains of influenza, a highly contagious respiratory infection. After exposure, some dogs will produce enough antibodies that they don't have any signs of illness. Signs of illness range from fevers, listlessness, coughing, sneezing, and a runny nose to life-threatening pneumonia, but typically it is much like having "kennel cough".



### ***What are the Signs?***

#### **Mild Form**

Dogs with a mild form have a soft, moist cough that persists for 10 to 30 days. They may also be lethargic and have reduced appetite and a fever. Sneezing and discharge from the eyes and/or nose may also be observed. Some dogs have a dry cough similar to "kennel cough" caused by *Bordetella*. Dogs may also have a thick nasal discharge which is usually caused by a secondary bacterial infection. The disease typically resolves without treatment, and treatment does not noticeably alter the course or duration of the disease.

#### **Severe Form**

Dogs with the severe form develop high fevers (104°F – 106°F) and have clinical signs of pneumonia such as increased respiratory rates and efforts. These clinical signs have a rapid onset and require immediate veterinary attention.

### ***How is Canine Influenza Transmitted?***

Transmission generally requires direct contact with an infected and contagious dog's fresh saliva or nasal secretions. However, an infected dog is most likely contagious **before** showing any signs at all.

### ***Can it be Prevented?***

Dogs that go to dog parks, performance competitions, dog shows, training classes and boarding kennels have a higher risk. Dogs that spend most of their time at home or rarely come into contact with other dogs have a lower risk. Try to limit or prevent exposure by not allowing your dog to socialize with coughing dogs.

### ***Should You Vaccinate?***

There is no vaccine that will completely protect against or eliminate the virus, but vaccinating reduces how ill your dog can be if infected as well as lessening your dog's ability to transmit the virus to other dogs. ***If your dog is at higher risk due to lifestyle and you would like to have your dog vaccinated, please call us at 509-522-0763. We now carry a canine influenza vaccine.*** The vaccine is given in a 2 dose series two to three weeks apart, and the second one should be completed at least three to four weeks before your dog goes anywhere like a boarding kennel or dog show.