

# Healthy Pets

## Veterinary Hospital

### CANINE INFLUENZA FAQ

#### What is it?

Canine influenza virus (CIV) causes respiratory symptoms similar to those experienced by humans with the flu. There are two known canine influenza virus types, H3N8 and H3N2. Both are highly contagious between dogs.

#### What are the signs?

Signs include coughing, sneezing, fever, lethargy, and discharge from the nose or eyes. Most dogs infected with CIV will only experience a mild upper respiratory tract infection and recover within a few days. But some may experience severe symptoms, which often require hospitalization.

#### Is there a vaccine?

Vaccines are available to help prevent both types of canine influenza, and it is recommended that at-risk pets be protected against both strains. Unlike humans, a first-time flu vaccine will require a booster 2-4 weeks after the initial vaccine to provide effective protection.

#### How can canine influenza spread?

Similar to the human flu, CIV spreads through close contact with infected dogs and can cause illness as quickly as 5 days after infection. These viruses are most commonly shared between dogs in the following areas:

Doggie Day Care

Dog Parks

Boarding Facilities

Pet Food Stores

Groomers

Anywhere Dogs Interact

#### Can canine influenza viruses infect humans?

There have been no known cases of these influenza viruses infecting humans, although both strains of CIV are highly contagious between dogs.