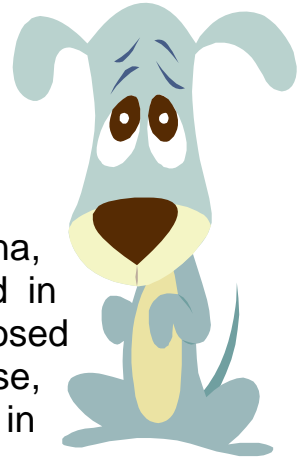


Canine Influenza (canine flu) Vaccine

Canine influenza is a newly emerging infectious disease caused by a “flu” virus. In dogs, a highly contagious strain of the influenza A virus known as H3N8 causes respiratory illness. This virus affects only dogs.

Currently reported in 30 states including North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, the virus was first reported in Florida. Highly contagious, the virus infects 100% of exposed dogs. Clinical signs develop in 80% (coughing, runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, and fever); pneumonia develops in 20% while 8% die.



Canine Flu is passed by direct contact, coughing, sneezing, shared water sources, dog parks, pet stores, groomers, boarding and other close contact settings. The virus can live 12-24 hours on hard surfaces and in clothing. Truly alarming is the fact that the virus is the most contagious early in the infection before the worst symptoms appear. Our pets could be exposed without our being aware they were around an infected dog.

Like the human flu vaccine, the Canine Influenza vaccine will not prevent the Canine Flu but will decrease the length and severity of the disease. The Canine Influenza Vaccine is available to dogs 6 weeks of age or older. A series of 2 vaccines given 3 weeks apart is then followed by an annual booster.



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