

Canine Influenza

Influenza in dogs is caused by canine influenza viruses. The two viruses that are concerning our dogs currently are the H3N8 and H3N2.

There are two vaccines available at this time - one for each strain of virus. These vaccines reduce the symptoms and decrease the length of time the dog is infective to other dogs.

We recommend that dogs be vaccinated for both strains of the canine influenza viruses. The vaccines will need to be boosted a few weeks after the initial vaccination and then boosted annually.

Dogs who are at risk are those that are around large numbers of dogs, such as boarding facilities, dog shows, dog parks, training classes, performance competitions and traveling. Dogs that have suppressed immune systems or diseases are at higher risk, as well.

Signs of influenza range from mild fever and lethargy to pneumonia. But most affected dogs have signs that are typical of kennel cough. There is no evidence that people can contract the canine influenza virus.

Please call with any concerns or to make an appointment to vaccinate your dog.