



Arlington & East Memphis Pet Hospital Canine Influenza Notice

S. Garrett Davis, DVM
Alisha Hezel, DVM

Jennifer Bean Allen, DVM
Charles A. Rahm, Jr., DVM

Heather Laros-Beard, DVM
Mary Marshall Fenton, DVM

Winfield Waters, DVM
Catie Jensen, DVM

What is Canine Influenza?

-Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease that is caused by the canine influenza virus (CIV) Type A. There are two strains known in the United States: CIV H3N8 and CIV H3N2.

-Most unvaccinated dogs are susceptible to infections by both viruses. Neither is infectious to humans, but as with human influenza, the best protection against canine influenza is vaccination, especially since both strains are included in the vaccination making it nearly 100% effective as a vaccine. Also, it is important to know that canine influenza is not seasonal like the human flu.

How is Canine Influenza Spread?

-Canine influenza spreads the same way as the common cold in humans – Direct contact, through the air (coughing/sneezing) and/or contaminated surfaces (water bowls, toys, hands etc.). The more your dog socializes with other dogs, the higher the risk of contracting canine influenza.

Are Certain Dogs at Higher Risk for Infection?

-Any dog can be at risk for canine influenza regardless of age, sex or breed. However, certain activities can raise your dog's risk of infection.

-Does your dog regularly:

Visit Doggie Day Care?

Board at a boarding facility or pet hotel?

Play frequently at dog parks?

Attend dog shows or sporting events?

Visit a groomer or the local pet store?

**If you answered YES to one or more of these questions, you should consider vaccinating your dog for canine influenza.

What are the Clinical Signs of Canine Influenza?

-Most cases of canine influenza are mild. However, up to 20% of infected dogs will have moderate to severe illness. The most common signs of canine influenza are:

Coughing and Retching

Sneezing

Nasal and/or Ocular Discharge

Decreased Appetite

Lethargy

In some cases, dogs may run a fever and demonstrate signs of depression. High fever and pneumonia may be seen in more severe cases. These clinical signs can last from a few days to several weeks depending on the severity of the disease.

Make an appointment today to have your pet vaccinated if you believe your pet to be at significant risk based on this information.