

## Facts about Canine Influenza (Dog Flu)

### Questions & Answers

#### ***What is canine influenza (dog flu)?***

Dog flu is a contagious respiratory disease in dogs caused by a specific Type A influenza virus referred to as a “canine influenza virus” (CIV). This is a disease of dogs and not of humans. Canine influenza virus has been confirmed in dogs across 30 states including the District of Columbia and its prevalence is rising.

#### ***What is a canine influenza virus?***

The “canine influenza virus” is an influenza A H3N8 influenza virus that was originally an equine (horse) influenza virus. The virus has spread to dogs and can now spread between dogs.

#### ***What are the symptoms of this infection in dogs?***

The symptoms of this illness in dogs are cough, runny nose and fever, however, a small percentage of dogs can develop severe disease. Clinical signs associated with CIV can be confused with kennel cough.

#### ***How serious is this infection in dogs?***

Some dogs have no symptoms, while some have severe symptoms. Severe illness is characterized by the onset of pneumonia. Although this is a relatively new cause of disease in dogs and nearly all dogs are susceptible to infection, about 80% of dogs will have a mild form of the disease. The number of dogs infected with this disease that die is very small.

#### ***How does dog flu spread?***

Dog flu can be spread by direct contact with respiratory secretions from infected dogs, by contact with contaminated objects, and by people moving between infected and uninfected dogs.

#### ***Is there a test for canine influenza?***

Testing for the CIV infection is done at a veterinary hospital but it is not easy to confirm a diagnosis. Tests can be performed using respiratory secretions collected at the time of disease onset or by blood testing.

#### ***How is the canine flu treated?***

Treatment mainly consists of supportive care. This will help the dog mount an immune response. In a milder form of the disease, this care may include medication to make your dog more comfortable and fluids to make sure that your pet remains well-hydrated. Broad spectrum antibiotics may be prescribed if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

#### ***Is there a vaccine for canine influenza?***

Yes, an approved vaccine is available. Canine Influenza Vaccine, H3N3 is a killed virus vaccine that significantly decreases clinical signs of disease and reduces viral shedding, and its safety has been confirmed in a study involving more than 700 dogs. The vaccine is administered subcutaneously and given initially as a series of two vaccines 2 to 4 week apart and once yearly thereafter.

#### ***What is the risk to humans from this virus?***

To date, there is no evidence of transmission of CIV from dogs to people and there has not been a single reported case of human infection with the canine influenza virus. This virus infects dogs and spreads between dogs; there is no evidence that this virus infects humans.

***My dog has a cough what should I do?***

Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian so that they can evaluate your dog and recommend an appropriate course of treatment.

***Should I get my dog vaccinated for the dog flu?***

If your dog goes to a boarding facility, plays with other dogs or goes for grooming it is recommended that you vaccinate your dog against the canine influenza virus. And because we want all our canine patients to remain healthy and safe *All Creatures Veterinary Hospital* now requires all dogs get vaccinated if they will be boarding here at our hospital.

***I have more questions and concerns about the canine flu.***

If you have any further questions or concerns please call our office at **(516) 432-2946** and a Doctor or a Licensed Veterinary Technician will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.

***When can I get my dog vaccinated?***

Just give us a call at **(516) 432-2946** and one of our receptionists will be glad to schedule an appointment for you.

***The doctors and staff at All Creatures Veterinary Hospital***

***[www.allcreaturesveterinaryhospital.vetsuite.com](http://www.allcreaturesveterinaryhospital.vetsuite.com)***