

CANINE INFLUENZA VACCINE—H3N8

It has been brought to our attention by the American Veterinary Medical Association that, before making arrangements for boarding or vacations for the holiday season; dog owners should check with their veterinarians about the highly contagious canine influenza virus (CIV).

Symptoms:

Canine flu is a respiratory infection that can spread when dogs come into contact with infected dogs, contaminated objects and people who have had contact with infected dogs. Symptoms present very similar to *Bordetella*.

(Runny nose, coughing, lethargic and feverish)

How concerned should I be?

We don't want you to be alarmed, but we do want you to be informed. Like most flu cases in humans, the virus will cause respiratory symptoms and fever, but in a healthy animal is not normally life-threatening. Virtually all dogs exposed to the virus will become infected and 10-20% of them may have a severe form. Dogs that have been exposed to the canine virus have been detected in 30 states.

Is the vaccine safe?

In a 745-dog field study Schering-Plough, the manufacturer of the vaccine found:

- Well tolerated on subcutaneous administration
- 100% reaction-free in this study
- Proven safe across a multitude of breeds and ages
 - At least 30 breeds included in study
 - Dogs ranged in age from 6 weeks to 10 years

Application:

- Subcutaneous injection
- Safe for use in dogs 6 weeks of age or older
- Two 1-mL doses given 2 to 4 weeks apart
- Annual revaccination with one dose is recommended

What dogs should be vaccinated?

- All dogs that are vaccinated for *Bordetella*
- Dogs that are taken to venues where multiple dogs interact/socialize

Veterinary clinics	Pet Stores
Shelters	Adoption groups
Kennels	Doggie daycares
Boarding facilities	Breeding facilities



It is important that you have your dog vaccinated now, to be prepared for any holiday boarding or camp. The vaccine requires 2 doses given 2-4 weeks apart. At The Animal Keeper and Pet Suites we are recommending that all of our clients get this vaccine due to the high social contact pets receive in our care. Should we accept your dog for boarding or camp and they have not had the vaccine we will not be liable for any illness or symptoms, or vet charges associated with said symptoms or illness during or after their stay with us. As a service to our clients we are attaching a list of Veterinarians that we know are carrying the vaccine. We will also be doing a low cost clinic at our Pet Suites location in Orange County starting October 25th and subsequent alternate Sundays, see our website for details.

At the Animal Keeper and Pet Suites our ultimate goal is to provide a happy, healthy, safe environment for your pet and to make sure they are cared for in a loving, compassionate way. If you have questions about this information please ask one of our managers or call our Chief Operating Officer, Christie Ferris at 949-230-6063. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Thank you for your patronage.
We appreciate your business, but we love your pets!**