

Recently there has been a large quantity of calls from our clients concerning the Canine Influenza.

Between March 16 and April 1, 2015, Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) has positively diagnosed in 89 dogs in the Chicago Area. Canine Influenza virus causes a respiratory infection in dogs that is often referred to as canine influenza or "dog flu". Canine Influenza virus was first isolated in Florida in 2004 at a Greyhound racing facility. Since then, almost all dogs are susceptible to infection when they are newly exposed because they have not built up natural immunity.

Most infected dogs show only mild symptoms, but some dogs become very sick and require veterinary treatment. Most common clinical signs include lethargy, anorexia, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, and cough. Dogs with more severe disease can present with a high fever and pneumonia.

*Canine Influenza is not the same as Bordetella (Kennel Cough).

*Canine influenza is HIGHLY infectious and the virus spreads very quickly from dog to dog.

*Canine influenza virus can be spread by direct contact with respiratory discharge from infected dogs, through the air via a cough, bark, or sneeze.

*Dog owners whose dogs are coughing or showing other signs of respiratory disease should not participate in activities or bring their dogs to facilities where other dogs can be exposed to the virus.

*Call us immediately if your dog has the following symptoms:

- *Coughing
- *Discharge from the nose or eyes
- *Loss of appetite
- *Lethargy/Lack of energy

We only recommend to vaccinate against flu virus if you have exposure to areas that are saturated with the virus, such as, Florida or Chicago. Several of the local boarding kennels are requiring the vaccine, so we feel it is necessary for us to provide the vaccination as a service to our clients. It is a series of 2 shots, 3 weeks apart if they have never received this vaccine before. After this first series, the vaccine is given annually. Please contact your boarding facility to see if they will require this vaccine.

To schedule an appointment please call the clinic at 618-667-3820.