

# Canine Influenza

## *What is canine influenza?*

- Caused by a flu virus
- Highly Contagious
- H3N8 strain
- ONLY AFFECTS DOGS

## *How contagious is canine influenza?*

- Virtually EVERY dog exposed to the virus will become infected
- 80% of infected dogs will show signs of infection
- Dogs have no natural immunity to the virus

## *What are the signs of canine influenza?*

- The most common sign is persistent cough
- It is a respiratory condition
- Other signs include a low-grade fever, nasal discharge, lack of energy, and loss of appetite

## *How serious is canine influenza?*

- Canine influenza is usually mild, but can become serious in some dogs
- In severe cases, high fever and pneumonia can occur
- A small number of cases have been fatal due to complications

## *How can I protect my dog from canine influenza?*

- Currently there is no specific treatment. As with all viral illnesses, it must run its course
- Prevention begins with maintaining your dog's good health
- Ensure all grooming and boarding facilities your dog enters are clean and have an infectious disease protocol in place
- Recently, a new canine influenza vaccine—the first of its kind—was approved for use in the US and has been clinically proven to significantly reduce the severity and length of the illness
- If your dog is currently being vaccinated for Bordetella, it should also be vaccinated for Canine Influenza

For further information about Canine Influenza, the following websites are available:

- [www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com)
- [www.avma.org/public\\_health/influenza/canine\\_bgnd.asp](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/canine_bgnd.asp)