

McLean Animal Hospital

8/3/17

Dear Client,

Currently there is no active outbreak of CIV (Canine Influenza Virus) in our area, but you may have heard on the news that there is a recent outbreak of canine influenza on the East Coast. The H3N2 strain has been circulating throughout the U.S. since 2015, but lately there have been confirmed cases in Florida, Tennessee and Georgia. We are seeing the virus spread rapidly throughout the South. This virus is highly contagious from one dog to another in the air and by direct contact. The virus survives on clothes, grass, and other surfaces up to 48 hours. So a dog can be exposed just by being in an area where an infected dog has been.

There are two strains of the virus H3N8 and H3N2. Both strains of canine influenza virus cause respiratory disease in dogs. Affected dogs may develop coughing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy and loss of appetite. The signs of infection are similar to those of other respiratory diseases in dogs. With proper medical attention, most dogs will recover. However, in some cases, canine influenza can progress to a more severe or even life-threatening condition, such as pneumonia.

The best way to protect your dog from canine influenza is through vaccinating. We have been vaccinating for H3N8 since 2009 and we now are carrying a bivalent vaccine which covers both strains of the virus. As of August 3, 2017 we will be using the bivalent vaccine exclusively so your pet will be protected against both strains of the influenza virus.

If your pet has never been vaccinated for canine influenza, after the initial vaccine you will need to return in 3-4 weeks for the 2nd booster of the Bivalent vaccine. The cost of each of the Bivalent vaccines is \$48.50.

If your pet has previously been vaccinated for the H3N8 strain (the vaccine we were using prior to the availability of the Bivalent vaccine) and this is the first time getting the Bivalent vaccine, we recommend a booster of the H3N2 strain in 3-4 weeks. We have discounted the cost of the booster of H3N2 to \$10.50.

Please call to discuss any questions you might have and to schedule a technician appointment to get your dog vaccinated for Canine Influenza. As always, we appreciate you letting us take care of your beloved pets.

Sincerely,

The Doctors and Staff of McLean Animal Hospital

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