

## **Does Canine Country Club require vaccinating for Canine Influenza?**

At this time, we do not require it. We believe that vaccinating your pet is a decision to be made between you and your vet. Your vet will have a better understanding of the health of your dog, and will be better able to advise you. Due to potential complications we do not feel comfortable requiring vaccinations unless warranted. In rare cases, dogs can have negative and sometimes fatal reactions to vaccinations. We believe that the current risk of this illness does not warrant mandatory vaccination.

Canine Influenza is on the list of reportable diseases. Meaning that your veterinarian is required to report it if they find it. The cost of vaccinating your pet can run anywhere from \$70 to \$100. Hospitalizing your pet, if they acquire a severe form of the flu, can cost thousands of dollars. It can lead to the death of your pet. This is a decision that you will need to make, as you do for yourself each year when you choose whether or not to be vaccinated for the flu.

This vaccination does not prevent your dog from contracting the illness it only lessens the possibility of having a severe case of the dog flu. Please consult your veterinarian for more information.

## **What does Canine Country Club do to protect my dog from Canine Influenza?**

Daycare water dishes are sanitized daily. Boarding dishes and bedding are sanitized following every stay or every three days for extended stays. We are not allowing toys in daycare due to the spread of illness. Dogs exhibiting signs of illness are kept away for other dogs. Parents are immediately called and asked to pick up their dog if they are showing symptoms. However, no amount of supervision, sanitization, or personalized care is 100% effective in protecting your pet from getting ill.



# Canine Influenza

### **Hours of Operation:**

**Monday-Friday 7:30am-10am &  
5pm-7pm**

**Saturday 7:30am-10am & 5pm-6pm**

**Sunday 6pm-7pm**

# What is Canine Influenza?

While in most cases canine influenza (CIV, dog flu) are not fatal, the virus can make your pet uncomfortably sick. Causing them and you a lot of stress and time at the vet's office.

The canine influenza virus, or "dog flu," is an infectious respiratory disease that is caused by an influenza A virus. There are two known strains of canine influenza in the United States: H3N8 H3N2.

These are not a seasonal illnesses, they can spread year-round. Symptoms: Mild Form: • Cough that lasts 10-26 days • Runny nose and sneezing • Lethargic • Loss of appetite • Fever Severe Form: • High fever 104°F – 106°F • Pneumonia (due to a secondary infection) • Difficulty breathing • Coughing up blood

Other symptoms include discharge from their eyes, diarrhea, and vomiting. Not all dogs will show signs of illness. There are mild and more severe cases of canine influenza. Most dogs will only develop the mild form of the virus. Virtually any dog who is exposed to the virus will become infected. About 80% will show signs of the disease. The other 20% do not show signs of illness but can still shed the disease to other dogs. Most dogs are able to recover on their own. The incubation period is typically 2-5 days from exposure to the onset of clinical signs, and they are the most contagious during this time. The fatality rate of this disease is about 8%, of critically ill dogs. The symptoms are very similar to Canine Cough.

How can my dog catch CIV? The dog flu is spread through aerosolized respiratory secretions. This occurs through barking, nose to nose contact, sneezing, water bowls, shared toys, collars, leashes, bedding material, shoes etc. It can be transmitted by people to pets, as it lives on

surfaces for 48 hours, clothing for 24 hours, and hands 12 hours. It can be found virtually anywhere dogs come into contact with each other, or places other dogs have been.

## **If my dog becomes sick what should I do?**

Consult your veterinarian. They can evaluate your dog and recommend an appropriate course of treatment. There is no cure for the dog flu. Treatment is supportive. Allow your dog time to rest and isolate them from other dogs. Make sure they have access to water and encourage them to drink.

Your vet may prescribe medications. Hospitalization is sometimes necessary. Most dogs recover in 2-3 weeks. Dogs who are infected with the virus should remain isolated from other dogs for at least 26 days. As they can still shed the infection. Dogs who are suspected of having the flu, are not allowed to stay at the Canine Country Club.

## **Is there a vaccination to protect my dog from Canine Influenza?**

Yes, there are three different vaccinations available. There is one that protects against H3N2, one that protects against H3N8 and there is a dual vaccination that protects against both strains. Vaccinating your dog is not a 100% guarantee that they will not get sick from the virus. It does seem to reduce the severity and duration of the illness, and shortens the shedding interval of the virus. Very similar to the influenza vaccination in humans. Something very important to know about this vaccine, is that it can take up to 30 days to become effective in your dog. Which means, when you call your veterinarian, if they don't carry the vaccine on hand it may take them a week or two to get it. Then they vaccinate your dog. Two weeks later you need to go back to your veterinarian to get their booster shot. Two weeks after their booster shot, the vaccine is working for your dog. So in total, from the time you decide to have your dog vaccinated to the time they are protected, it can take 45 days! So please, call ahead of time and ask your veterinarian if they recommend your dog be vaccinated

## **Symptoms:**

Mild Form:

- Cough that lasts 10-26 days
- Runny nose and sneezing • Lethargic • Loss of appetite • Fever Severe Form:
- High fever 104°F – 106°F • Pneumonia (due to a secondary infection)
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Coughing up blood