

## CANINE HEALTH WARNING- INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

In the last few days there have been confirmed cases of Canine Influenza H3N2 and H3N8 (dog flu) in the Los Gatos, Campbell and Saratoga areas. Canine influenza is a highly contagious virus. The symptoms are respiratory in nature and can vary from dog to dog. Some have no symptoms, while others become severely ill. Fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, runny nose, coughing and vomiting have been reported. Common areas of exposure would be parks, grooming salons, doggy day care and boarding facilities. Unfortunately a dog may have the virus and not be showing symptoms but could still be spreading the virus.

We currently DO NOT have patients from our hospital that are sick with the flu. Other facilities down town are reporting that they have several patients from their hospital that are sick with the flu that are quite ill. These dogs are believed to have contracted the flu from doggy day care and boarding facilities over the holidays.

There is a vaccine for H3N2 and H3N8, at this point we are highly recommending the vaccine for our patients. We also recommend not taking your dogs out in public ( dog parks, beaches and other places that are highly populated by dogs) until we know how the virus is spreading. Humans cannot contract the flu from dogs. Cats, however, can sometimes catch the virus from infected dogs. There is no flu vaccine for cats at this time.

What are we recommending?

We are taking this outbreak very seriously, as infected dogs are getting very ill. If your dog is not vaccinated already for canine influenza, we strongly recommend calling the hospital at (408) 353-1113 to discuss whether this vaccine is appropriate for your dog.

If your dog is already coughing it's too late for the vaccine. Please call us if your dog is coughing. They may benefit from medication and supportive care. You will need to quarantine your dog other canines for 4-5 weeks to prevent the spread of this flu.

Your dog's health is important to us. Please contact us if you have additional questions about this flu outbreak.

Summit Veterinary Hospital  
(408)353-1113