

Canine Influenza

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The dog flu, or Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) H3N8, jumped from horses to dogs 5 years ago. A vaccine against the disease was released in May of 2009 for dogs.

The CIV vaccine is considered a non-core vaccine - only given to dogs at risk of exposure. It is recommended for dogs that come in contact with other dogs, especially in a kennel, shelter, or dog show environment.

Most dogs that are given a Bordetella (Kennel Cough) vaccine should also receive a CIV vaccine. Two injections are needed three weeks apart to receive the maximum level of protection from the vaccine. A yearly booster is recommended.

The vaccine will usually decrease the symptoms of the disease but will not usually prevent your pet from coming down with the flu. The mortality from CIV is between less than 1% and 10% in unvaccinated dogs. About 80% of the previously vaccinated dogs exposed to the virus will have a mild form of the disease.

Receiving the vaccine(s) at least 10 days before entering a boarding facility is preferred. The vaccine does not prevent your pet from shedding the virus if it is exposed to the CIV.

The doctor will be happy to discuss whether or not the CIV vaccine is appropriate for your pet.

♥ Thank you for entrusting your pet to our care ♥