

Wellington Veterinary Clinic, Inc.
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Canine Influenza Virus

Canine Influenza is now in Ohio! Here are some facts regarding Canine Influenza Virus (CIV):

- ◊ Canine Influenza is highly contagious. Virtually all dogs become infected with the first exposure. This is because the virus is relatively new and dogs have no natural immunity to it.
- ◊ It is easily spread from dog to dog. There is a higher risk for dogs in adoption centers, shelters, grooming, and boarding facilities.
- ◊ About 80% of exposed dogs will show signs of infection. Even dogs that don't show signs can spread the virus to other dogs.
- ◊ A vaccine is now available for the Canine Influenza Virus H3N2, in addition to H3N8.

CIV (canine influenza virus) has existed in horses for more than 40 years. Scientists first identified this virus in dogs in 2005 when a number of Greyhounds at a Florida racetrack become ill. It was determined that the virus had crossed species from horses to dogs. Currently 30 states including Ohio have reported cases of canine influenza.

Both Bordetella and the influenza virus have symptoms that mimic one another. Symptoms of the flu include persistent coughing, dry cough, low grade fever, nasal discharge, lack of energy, and loss of appetite. In about 20% of the cases, more severe symptoms can occur including high fever and pneumonia. A small number of dogs with the virus have died from complications of the disease.

You can protect your dog from this disease. A vaccine is now available and Wellington Veterinary Clinic requires vaccinating dogs that are around other dogs, such as dogs that are boarded, groomed, attend Playcare, dog shows, dog parks, or training classes. Dogs must receive two vaccines, 2-4 weeks apart. The first vaccine is given by a veterinarian and the second vaccine can be given by one of our registered veterinary technicians. A yearly vaccine is then necessary.

You can protect your dog from Canine Influenza!!

Please refer to the following links for more information and frequently asked questions:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine>

http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/canine_bgnd.asp

www.aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-care-canine-flu-question-and-answer.html

Beginning 2018 Wellington Veterinary Clinic began requiring dogs that use our Playcare, boarding or grooming services to be vaccinated against Canine Influenza. Canine Influenza, or CIV, has been increasing its spread across the country. It has been reported in 46 states including Ohio. With this disease hitting closer and closer to home, we feel it is necessary to include CIV vaccination as a requirement in order to continue to provide the highest level of protection for our at risk patients.

Canine Influenza, or dog flu, is a highly contagious viral disease affecting dogs and cats. There are two strains, (H3N8 and H3N2) that have been identified in the United States. The virus is shed through aerosolized droplets of respiratory secretions from coughing, barking or sneezing. It can also be spread by contaminated objects like bowls, leashes, clothing or people. One feature of CIV that makes it particularly concerning is that an exposed dog can shed virus for several days before showing any signs they are sick. In most cases, symptoms are mild and will resolve within a couple weeks. On occasion, more severe illness like pneumonia can develop and on rare occasion can result in death. It has been reported that up to 80% of exposed dogs will develop some degree of illness. For additional information about CIV, go to <https://www.dogflu.com>.

Vaccination for CIV is not for every dog. Dogs that enjoy dog parks, play groups, boarding, grooming, competition, show, or travel are at risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses like CIV. Simply put, if your dog gets vaccinated for Bordetella, it should also be vaccinated for CIV. It's important to understand that vaccination does not guarantee that your dog will not get sick. However, it does help reduce the number of dogs that do get sick, the severity of clinical signs and length of illness. Dogs initially need to receive 2 doses of vaccine 2-4 weeks apart. They are not considered protected until at least 1 week after the second dose of vaccine is given. It is an annual vaccine thereafter.

We remain committed to providing the highest level of compassionate care for the lifetime of your pet.

The Doctors and Staff of Wellington Veterinary Clinic, Inc.