



ATTENTION BOARDING CLIENTS!!

Dear clients,

Recently we've been getting questions from some of our pet owners about a new dog virus called canine influenza. They were concerned about stories they have seen or read in the news about dog flu outbreaks. In answering their questions, we realized that all of our dog owners may have similar questions and concerns. So, we're writing to tell you about canine influenza, what puts dogs at risk, what can be done to protect them, and why our boarding facility must now require this additional vaccine.

Canine influenza is a respiratory disease that causes coughing, nasal discharge, and loss of energy and appetite. The signs of infection are similar to those of other respiratory diseases in dog but the coughing caused by canine influenza can last for several weeks. With proper care, most dogs generally recover. However, canine influenza can lead to more severe or even life-threatening infections (such as pneumonia) and has been fatal in up to 8% of cases, including healthy dogs.

Because canine influenza is caused by a relatively new virus, dogs have no natural immunity to it. And since it's highly contagious, visiting places where dogs congregate (boarding facilities, doggie daycares, dog parks, or groomers) puts dogs at higher risk for catching this new virus. Making things more difficult is the fact that dogs can spread the virus before the coughing and other signs of sickness appear.

The best way to protect your dog from canine influenza is through vaccination. Fortunately, a Bivalent H3N8 and H3N2 vaccine is available that aids in the control of disease caused by Canine Influenza in one combined vaccine.

Based on this information, we are now requiring that all dogs are vaccinated against canine influenza to be allowed to board at our facility. East West Veterinary Care Center has always put a lot of time into researching any new product or disease and we take that into consideration before we require any new vaccines. We believe that the benefits outweigh the risk with this respiratory disease. Please call us to discuss any questions you might have or to set up an appointment. To give your dog the most complete protection, the initial vaccination requires two doses of vaccine given 2 to 4 weeks apart, followed by a single booster dose given annually.

Sincerely,

East West Veterinary Care Center

PS. If you'd like to read more about canine influenza, www.doginfluenza.com offers a lot of good information.

We are committed to the well-being of your pet and providing a safe, caring environment so that you have peace of mind when your pet is in our care. We also feel it's part of our responsibility as care takers that we provide you with information about potential threats to your pet's health.