



Spay/Neuter Clinic
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Canine Influenza Virus

What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs that is caused by a virus. The canine influenza virus is closely related to the virus that causes equine influenza and it is thought that the equine influenza virus mutated to produce the canine influenza virus.

Two clinical syndromes have been seen in dogs infected with the canine influenza virus—a mild form of the disease and a more severe form that is accompanied by pneumonia.

- *About the mild form*—Dogs suffering with the mild form of canine influenza develop a soft, moist cough that persists for 10 to 30 days. Some dogs have a dry cough similar to the "kennel cough" caused by *Bordetella bronchiseptica*/parainfluenza virus complex. For this reason, canine influenza virus infections are frequently mistaken for "kennel cough." Dogs with the mild form of influenza may also have a thick nasal discharge, which is usually caused by a secondary bacterial infection.
- *About the severe form*—Dogs with the severe form of canine influenza develop high fevers (104°F to 106°F) and have clinical signs of pneumonia, such as increased respiratory rates and effort. Pneumonia may be due to a secondary bacterial infection.

Because this is a newly emerging disease, almost all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and have no immunity. Virtually all dogs that are exposed to the virus become infected and nearly 80% show clinical signs of disease.

Do dogs die from canine influenza?

Fatal cases of pneumonia resulting from infection with canine influenza virus have been reported in dogs, but the fatality rate has been low so far (5% to 8%).

Do I need to be concerned about putting my dog in day care or boarding it at a kennel?

Dog owners should be aware that any situation that brings dogs together increases the risk of the spread of communicable illnesses. Good infection control practices can reduce that risk, so dog owners involved in shows, sports, or other activities with their dogs or who board their dogs at kennels should ask whether respiratory disease has been a problem there, and whether the facility has a plan for isolating dogs that develop respiratory disease and for notifying owners if their dogs have been exposed to dogs with respiratory disease.

Is canine influenza transmissible from dogs to other animal species/humans?

At this time, there is no evidence of transmission of canine influenza from dogs to horses, cats, ferrets, or other animal species/humans. As of November 1, 2009, there has never been a reported or confirmed case of transmission from dog to any other animal species/human. The canine influenza virus is being tracked very closely and updates will be reported by the CDC (center of disease control) as information becomes available.

My dog has a cough...what should I do?

Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian so that he or she can examine and evaluate your dog and recommend an appropriate course of treatment. If canine influenza is suspected, treatment will usually focus on maximizing the ability of your dog's immune system to combat the virus. A typical approach might include administration of fluids if your dog is becoming dehydrated and prescribing an antimicrobial if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

Canine influenza virus can be spread via direct contact with respiratory secretions from infected dogs, and by contact with contaminated inanimate objects. Therefore, dog owners whose dogs are coughing or exhibiting other signs of respiratory disease should not participate in activities or bring their dogs to facilities where other dogs can be exposed to them. Clothing, equipment, surfaces, and hands should be cleaned and disinfected after exposure to dogs showing signs of respiratory disease to prevent transmission of infection to susceptible dogs. Clothing can be adequately cleaned by using a detergent at normal laundry temperatures.

Product Information



- Administered subcutaneously as an initial dose followed by a booster 2 to 4 weeks later
- Annual revaccination with one dose is recommended
- Safe for use in dogs 6 weeks of age or older
- Recommended for all dogs with exposure to other dogs (boarding facilities, doggie daycare, agility competitions, dog shows, groomers, shelters, etc)

When and where do I have a booster vaccine for the CIV vaccine done?

CIV booster vaccines are offered at Long Animal Hospital and should be done 2-4 weeks after the initial vaccine was given here at the Humane Society of Charlotte Spay/Neuter Clinic. Long Animal Hospital is located just two blocks from the Humane Society of Charlotte Spay/Neuter Clinic at 2421 South Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. Boosters for CIV will be available by appointment only at Long Animal Hospital. Please call Long Animal Hospital to schedule your dog's appointment at 704-523-2996. The cost is \$30.00 per booster vaccine. Prices are subject to change by Long Animal Hospital without notice or if other services are needed or required.