



# Facts about canine influenza

## (and a new vaccine that's now available to protect dogs)

### Canine influenza is...

- An emerging threat to the respiratory health of dogs across the US
  - All breeds and ages are susceptible to infection
  - Because it's a new virus, dogs have no natural immunity to it
- Highly contagious and easily spread through:
  - Direct contact (licking or nuzzling)
  - The air (coughing or sneezing)
  - Contaminated surfaces (picked up on the hands or clothing of a person and then spread when another dog is touched or petted)
- Characterized by a persistent cough that may last several weeks, as well as runny nose, watery eyes, and a loss of appetite and/or energy
- Usually mild, but can progress to a more severe infection or pneumonia in 10% to 20% of cases, and is fatal in up to 8% of sick dogs
- A concern for owners whose dogs:
  - Come from a shelter, rescue center, breeder, or pet store
  - Board at a kennel
  - Attend doggie daycare or group training
  - Visit a groomer, dog park, or other places where dogs congregate
  - Participate in dog events and competitions

### Canine Influenza Vaccine, H3N8 is...

- The first vaccine available to aid in the prevention of disease associated with canine influenza
- Proven to significantly reduce the coughing, severity, and spread of canine influenza infection
- Proven safe; a killed virus vaccine developed, manufactured, and marketed by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health and conditionally licensed by the USDA
  - A conditional license is issued to meet a special circumstance such as the emergence of a new virus for which there is no existing vaccine
- Administered in two doses given 2 to 4 weeks apart
  - One annual booster injection is needed to continue protection

Please contact the South Des Moines Veterinary Center at (515) 285-5523 to schedule a vaccination for your pet. For more information on canine influenza, visit [www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com).