

**South Federal Animal Hospital
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CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS

Canine Influenza Virus is a highly contagious virus that has been seen in our area.. It may be present at any place where dogs congregate (dog parks, humane societies, animal hospitals, boarding kennels, and grooming parlors). **It is impossible to totally prevent the possibility of exposure where dog populations congregate.**

Is Canine Influenza the same as kennel cough?

No, it is not. The most common cause of kennel cough is bacteria. Canine Influenza is caused by a virus. In most cases it is no more serious than kennel cough. The influenza cough is “softer” and more productive than the kennel cough.

Incubation period

It takes 2-5 days from the time of exposure.

What are the signs of infection?

About 80% of dogs develop a mild illness with signs like cough, low fever, and nasal discharge. About 20% have no symptoms but can be silent carriers and spread the infection to other dogs for 4-7 days. SILENT CARRIERS IS WHY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A FACILITY TO PREVENT AN INFECTION FROM ENTERING. **A very small percentage of dogs will develop a more serious illness with signs that include pneumonia and high fever.**

How do we test for Canine Influenza?

There is a blood test to determine if a dog is infected or not.

How does Canine Influenza spread?

It is highly contagious and all dogs are highly susceptible unless that have already had the infection.

1. Airborne virus from a coughing dog.
2. Direct contact with an infected dog.
3. Contact with an infected surface.
4. Contact with a person who has had contact with an infected dog.

Is there a vaccine for Canine Influenza?

YES! There is now available a safe and effective vaccine that protects your dog against CI. The first time your dog is vaccinated, it requires two doses given 2-3 weeks apart. From then on, it is given once a year.

What is the treatment for Canine Influenza?

There is no specific treatment available that kills this virus. Antibiotics and IV fluids may be needed in some patients who have the severe (pneumonia) form. Ultimately, it has to run its course.

Is it contagious to other animals or people?

Canine Influenza is not known to be contagious to other animals (except dogs) or people.

How long does the virus live in the environment?

Canine Influenza is thought to last about 12 hours in the environment, but it is easily killed by commonly used disinfectants.

SFAH strongly advises that dogs that may be potentially exposed to CI are vaccinated.

Where can I obtain further information?

The best website is www.canineflu.org