

NEWS RELEASE

Is Your Dog Protected?

Canine Influenza (H3N8)

An Emerging Canine Disease

First isolated a few years ago in Florida, Canine Influenza Virus, H3N8, is an emerging disease that places all dogs at risk. Like the H1N1 Influenza virus, the H3N8 strain has jumped from one species (horses) to another (dogs). Because this strain of the Influenza virus is new to the canine species, dogs have not had a chance to develop the protective antibodies required to fight off the disease. In the Florida epidemic, many dogs did not survive. Since the initial outbreak, studies have shown that approximately 8% of dogs that get the virus will not survive. This is an extremely high mortality rate. Now endemic in Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, and Colorado, affected dogs have been identified in 30 states and Washington D.C.

The Canine Influenza Virus spreads rapidly from dog to dog. Dogs shed the virus up to a week before demonstrating any clinical signs. This means that an otherwise healthy dog may be shedding the virus, placing all other dogs at risk. Clinical signs include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, low grade fever, and secondary pneumonia and can persist up to 21 days despite attempted treatment. There is no specific treatment available, merely supportive care.

The good news is that a vaccine has recently been developed to protect dogs. Initially, a two shot series is required followed by an annual booster for immunity.

Orrville Veterinary Clinic, Seville Wadsworth Veterinary Clinic, and Akron Barberton Veterinary Clinic are offering a **Canine Influenza Vaccine Clinic every Thursday afternoon starting November 5 and running thru December 17 from 3:00 to 5:00pm**. No appointment is necessary during the Clinic hours and other times are available by appointment. Please note that this is a Canine Influenza Vaccine Clinic only. An appointment will be necessary if your pet requires additional medical care. A booster is required in 2-4 weeks to insure immunity. This vaccine is highly recommended for dogs older than 12 weeks for boarding, grooming, showing, daycare, dog classes, and dog parks. The Orrville Veterinary Clinic is located at 1665 N. Main Street, Orrville, phone 330-682-2971; Seville Wadsworth Veterinary Clinic is at 3898 Greenwich Road, Seville, phone 330-336-5823; and Akron Barberton Veterinary Clinic is at 1111 Wooster Rd. N, Barberton, phone 330-753-4114. Please visit the websites www.orrvillevetclinic.com , www.sevillevetclinic.com , or www.akronvetclinic.vetsuite.com for more information.