

# Canine Influenza

Do dogs need a new Influenza vaccine?

There has been a lot of coverage by the media causing dog owners to wonder if their dogs are at risk and if they need vaccination.

Part of veterinarian's core vaccines is a strain of influenza that has been used for dozens of years. The new strain is different and protection from the core influenza vaccine won't be complete. There is a new vaccine made to protect against the new strain of influenza(H3N8). This new vaccine may decrease the symptoms but usually not all of them. Due to this vaccine being new, reaction rate to the vaccine is yet unknown.

The incidence of influenza caused by the new strain H3N8 is very low especially in our area. The severity of H3N8 is no more significant than other respiratory viruses that haven't been isolated or identified. When dogs get upper respiratory infections, we don't isolate which virus has caused the symptoms we just treat the infection and dogs get well.

Since influenza caused by H3N8 has such a low morbidity rate (% of animals infected) and low mortality rate (% of animals that die from the infection) we do not recommend the virus at this time. It may change and become part of our core vaccines in the future but at present time we recommend not being influenced by the media and enjoy your dogs without worry.

If you have any questions regarding vaccination for the H3N8 virus please e-mail your concerns or call 795-9507.