



By now you may have heard the Canine Influenza Virus (H3N8) has been confirmed in the greater Baltimore Washington area. It is a virus similar to Kennel Cough that causes coughing, sneezing, fever, nasal discharge, eye discharge, and occasional pneumonia. Dogs can spread the virus for 7-10 days before showing symptoms.

Airpark Animal Hospital recommends giving the Canine Influenza vaccine to dogs that board, socialize in dog parks or pet stores, are in obedience classes, attend daycare, and/or have grooming services. **Airpark will require the vaccine for our boarding and grooming clients to protect your pet from this contagious virus.**

Two vaccinations, 2-4 weeks apart, are required for immunity to the virus. It will then take another two weeks for Canine Influenza immunity to peak.

The cost of vaccination is \$22 for each injection. There will be no charge for an office visit when you come in to have your dog vaccinated if your dog has been seen by an Airpark veterinarian within the past year.

### **Canine Influenza Virus - Symptoms & Treatment**

Symptoms of the virus vary in severity and duration and can include:

- Signs of upper respiratory problems such as runny nose, sneezing, conjunctivitis (“pink eye”) and/or discharge from the eyes
- Cough that worsens or increases when your dog is active or excited and persists for several minutes
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- It is possible that a secondary bacterial infection can develop and lead to potentially life-threatening pneumonia

Diagnosis of canine influenza virus can include:

- An extensive exam and medical history
- Chest x-ray
- Laboratory blood tests
- Fecal test

Treatment of canine influenza virus varies depending upon the severity of symptoms and can include:

- Antibiotics
- Intravenous (IV) fluid therapy
- Cough suppressants
- Isolation within the home to prevent spread of infection