**How to Protect Your Dog from Canine Influenza/**

**The “Dog Flu”**

In the United States, 2 strains of canine influenza virus (CIV) have been identified: H3N8 and H3N2. H3N8 was first detected in 2004 and has since been identified in canines in most states. H3N2, which infects canines and sometimes felines, was identified in 2015. Most recently, the state of Massachusetts reported its first case of canine influenza. Despite the virus’s prevalence in the U.S. for a number of years, many pet owners aren’t familiar with it.

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine noted there has been an increased awareness of CIV due to the release of vaccines. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) remains the most reliable test to diagnose the virus. The Animal Health Diagnostic Center offers a PCR test that can detect any influenza virus in a specimen, not just CIV. For more information, visit ahdc.vet.cornell.edu.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is striving to help educate the public about canine influenza, and has gathered helpful resources that are publicly available at avma.org/canineflu.

AVMA’s web page provides information intended to help better inform the public about the virus. Pet owners will find facts about the virus’s origins, transmission, pathology and clinical signs, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention and control.

-From Today’s Veterinary News Magazine. November/December 2018. Pg 7.

For more information on this recommended vaccine, call us at:

843-444-1234

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