

CANINE INFLUENZA (K9 FLU)

K9 Flu is a fairly new disease caused by a virus. It can cause a respiratory infection that may result in pneumonia. Because dogs can shed the virus before they even get sick and give it to other dogs, this disease spreads rapidly. To date, it has been reported in 40 states. Approximately 80% of dogs that show signs of the flu will have mild disease. Signs may include: lasting cough, low grade fever, nasal discharge, and/or loss of appetite. Severe signs like pneumonia and high fever will occur in about 20% of the cases.

Risk factors increasing your dog's chance of infection include: traveling across state lines with your dog, or high exposure to other dogs (for example boarding, group training or dog parks).

Nobivac Canine Flu H3N8 Vaccine from Merck Animal Health has been proven to significantly reduce the severity of the Canine Flu and length of illness. The vaccine is safe and given initially and followed by a booster in 2-4 weeks.

Recently a new strain of the Canine Flu has been discovered. Merck Veterinary Health is hoping their flu vaccine will cross-protect against the newer strain. Research is still being done.

Please call our office to schedule an appointment if your dog is at risk.