



## WHAT PET OWNERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOG FLU



Canine Influenza (“dog flu”) has been in the news again following several outbreaks in various parts of the country with a growing number located in the southeast. This has resulted in significant interest in the disease, as well as increasing questions and concerns from pet owners who have dogs with social lifestyles, including those that visit dog parks, attend doggy daycare, or participate in sporting or show events.

To help ensure you have the information you need to help protect the health and well-being of your dog, as well as other dogs or cats\* you may have in your household, please note the following tips. Additionally, talk to your veterinarian about whether or not vaccinating against both strains of dog flu may be right for your dog.

- Dog flu is not the same as Canine Parainfluenza or Bordetella
- There are two strains of dog flu—Canine influenza virus (CIV) H3N8 and canine influenza virus H3N2. H3N8 has been around for several years but H3N2, an Asian strain of dog flu, was first identified in the United States in early 2015, which means dogs have not been exposed to it before and have no immunity.
- CIV H3N8 has been found in 42 states since first identified in 2003, and CIV H3N2 has not been diagnosed in 30 states in just the past two years.
- H3N2 is incredibly contagious. It can be spread easily by direct contact with infected dogs (sniffing, licking, nuzzling), through the air (coughing, barking, sneezing), and by contact with contaminated objects such as dog bowls and clothing.
- A dog may have the CIV H3N2 strain of dog flu for up to 24 days, which means the dog is contagious and spreading the disease throughout that time period. As a result, the infection can spread quickly amongst social dogs including those in sporting and show events.