

## **Canine Influenza**

Canine Influenza has finally made its appearance in the Tulsa and surrounding areas. This is a highly contagious viral infection that can lead to severe disease and even death in some patients. In many ways it can be similar to the human flu, including coughing, sneezing, lethargy, fever (often high), and discharge from the eyes and nose. In the early stages this can often be confused with our “traditional” kennel cough, but influenza is often more aggressive.



### **Should Your Dog Be Vaccinated?**

We are recommending that all dogs that frequent dog parks, boarding, grooming, and daycare facilities be vaccinated with the Bivalent Influenza vaccine. The vaccine does require a booster in 2-6 weeks and maintained yearly after the initial series.

### **How Is Influenza Transmitted?**

The virus is aerosolized in the respiratory secretions and can be found on contaminated objects. Direct contact with an infected dog is not necessary due to the aerosolized nature. The incubation time after exposure is 2-5 days.

### **How Long Is My Dog Contagious?**

Once exposed your dog can shed the virus for up to 4 weeks. Keep your dog home and away from others during this time.

### **Why Is This So Important?**

We are headed into one of the most traveled holidays. This means there will be an increased risk of exposure as your pet boards and plays with other dogs during its stay. This isn't said to scare you but to ensure you are aware and offer all the education we can to keep your pets safe.

If you have questions, concerns or want to schedule your kids to have the Bivalent Influenza vaccine please call or request an appointment online. We have a limited supply of vaccines at this time.

Dr. Bone and Skyline Team.