



# Ashland Animal Hospital

Progressive Compassionate Pet Care

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## H3N8 canine influenza virus (dog flu)

The canine influenza virus, H3N8, is highly contagious and spreads especially rapidly among dogs living in a confined space, such as a shelter or kennel. The virus was first identified in 2004 and is suspected to have originated as an equine virus.

It's important to know that it's not the same as bird or swine flu and it's not transmissible to people, but people can carry it on their clothes or hands and infect other dogs.

Similar to other influenza viruses, H3N8 causes severe respiratory infection and cough.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), almost every dog that is exposed to the virus becomes infected, but only 80 percent develop clinical signs. The signs are similar to kennel cough, and canine flu is frequently misdiagnosed as such.

The first vaccine for H3N8 canine influenza virus (CIV) was granted a conditional license by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on May 27, 2009, for use by veterinarians in the United States.

Ashland Animal Hospital is currently assessing the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. If it is determined that the vaccine is safe and in the best interests of our patients, we will notify you by email.

To read more about H3N8 Canine Influenza:

Center of Disease Control:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine/>