



## **SEASIDE PET CLINIC**

Quality Medicine with a Personal Touch

900 24<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seaside, OR 97138  
(503) 738-8846

[www.SeasidePetClinic.com](http://www.SeasidePetClinic.com)

## **Canine Influenza**

There has been a lot of concern lately about the swine flu (or H1N1 virus) in people, and in the midst of that the news has picked up on a new disease affecting dogs: the canine flu (or H3N8 virus). As you can see by their scientific names, they are not the same virus, so you should not worry about catching this from your dog. Our clinic has received several questions about this virus and whether dogs should be vaccinated with the recently released vaccine.

Canine Influenza Virus Facts (adapted from Veterinary Forum, Sept 2009):

- First identified in racing greyhounds in January 2004
- First seen in a dog population in Spring 2005
- Virtually 100% of exposed dogs will become infected
- Approximately 80% of infected dogs will show signs of disease
- Approximately 20% of infected dogs will not show signs of disease but can be asymptomatic sources of infection for other dogs
- Fatal in fewer than 8% of cases
- Infected dogs can spread the virus for 7 to 10 days after the onset of clinical signs
- Signs include: runny nose, cough, and fever

Canine influenza can be difficult to diagnose or distinguish from other diseases and it is only considered a problem where there are active outbreaks. Usually this is going to be where large numbers of dogs are together like shelters or boarding kennels. Currently the Oregon State Veterinarian has not issued any warnings about the virus in our region.

A vaccine has been developed and released for this virus and it has been shown to reduce the severity and length of the disease. At this point it isn't recommended by most experts in the field to get the vaccine for your dog unless it will be going to an area of known incidence of disease. For that reason, and since the State Vet has not issued a warning for our area, our clinic has chosen not to carry the vaccine at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call Seaside Pet Clinic at 503-738-8846.