



Dear Fellow Pet Parents,

As you may have heard, there has been an upsurge of Canine Influenza Virus (Flu) in the area. This not only affects Hillsborough County but much of west central Florida. So far, it has been detected and caused the temporary closure of several local county shelters. These shelters often serve as the early warning indicators for the general pet population.

The signs of Canine Influenza are similar to the human flu: cough, runny nose, and fever. The most common symptom is a cough that does not respond to antibiotics or cough suppressant therapy and lasts for 10-21 days. Reduced appetite and lethargy are also common. Most dogs infected with Canine Influenza will display mild symptoms, but as with many of the respiratory viruses, secondary bacterial infections can cause complications. Flat faced breeds such as Boston Terriers and French and English Bulldogs may be at a higher risk of severe symptoms due to their anatomical breathing limitations. Humans, cats, and most other animals are not at risk from this virus.

At this time, we are strongly suggesting that you have your dogs vaccinated for the Canine Flu, especially if they are frequently around other dogs not in your household. This includes boarding, dog day care, grooming, dog parks, neighborhood play groups, etc.

If your dog has never been vaccinated for the Canine Flu, it consists of a series of 2 inoculations, 2-3 weeks apart. If your dog has been vaccinated for the Canine Flu within the last 12- 24 months, one booster will be needed.

At Boyette Animal Hospital, we have opened new appointment slots as early as this Friday and Saturday (6/28 and 6/29) for dogs to receive these vaccinations from one of our technicians on staff. If your dog has been examined by one of our doctors within the last 12 months, you can take advantage of these new appointment openings without having to pay for a doctor's examination, as long as your dog is currently healthy.

If you wish to schedule a Flu vaccination appointment, call us at 813-671-3400.

Thank you,

Boyette Animal Hospital