Quick facts about canine influenza

Canine influenza is a highly contagious viral infection that affects dogs, and cats too!

There are two strains of canine influenza:

- **Canine H3N8 influenza**
  - Discovered in 2004 in Florida
  - Found in racing greyhounds
  - Has been diagnosed in dogs in most U.S. states
  - Cannot infect humans
  - Originated in *Horses*

- **Canine H3N2 influenza**
  - Discovered in 2015 in Illinois, but thought to have come from Asia
  - As of 2017, has been diagnosed in dogs in many states including Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Louisiana and Illinois
  - Cannot infect humans
  - Originated in *Bird Markets*

**How does it spread?**
- Respiratory secretions from coughing, barking and sneezing
- Incubation period is 1 to 5 days, clinical signs appear 2 to 3 days after exposure
- Dogs can spread the virus during the incubation period, even when not exhibiting signs of illness
- Approximately 80% of dogs exposed to canine influenza will develop signs of disease; if the dog does not develop signs of the disease, he can still spread the infection

**How is it diagnosed?**
To accurately diagnose canine influenza, tests must be run to rule out clinical signs also present with other respiratory illnesses.

**How is it treated?**
When treated properly, most dogs recover within 2 to 3 weeks. Treatment can include:
- Isolation
- Anti-inflammatory medications
- Antimicrobials
- Fluids

**How is it prevented?**
1. Veterinary, boarding and shelter facilities should implement biosecurity protocols; including, but not limited to:
   - Hand washing
   - Disinfectants
   - Protective clothing
   - Isolating infected dogs

2. Veterinarians can administer vaccines such as Nobivac Canine Flu Bivalent by Merck to reduce the risk of disease or severity of infection.

**Where is an increased risk?**
- Kennels
- Groomers
- Daycare Facilities
- Shelters
- Dog parks

**What are the symptoms in dogs?**
- Persistent cough for 10-21 days despite treatment with antibiotics and cough suppressants
- Soft, moist cough or a dry cough similar to kennel cough
- Nose or eye discharge
- Sneezing
- Lethargy
- Resistance to eating
- Fever
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**And in cats?**
- Nasal discharge
- Congestion
- Malaise
- Lip smacking
- Excessive salivation