

Dear Valued Canine Families,

We are writing to inform you of a recent policy change at the Orrville Pet Spa and Resort. Due to the recent outbreak and emergence of the Canine Influenza Virus (H3N8), we are now recommending that all dogs be appropriately vaccinated. After January 1st, 2010, vaccination for H3N8 will be required.

The Canine Influenza Virus (H3N8) virus is similar to the H1N1 virus in that it began in one species (horses) and crossed over to a second mammalian species (dogs). At this time, the virus is not known to be contagious to any other mammals. The first case of the Canine Influenza was discovered in racing Greyhounds in Florida in 2004. Since that time, the Canine Flu has been detected in 30 states, and Washington D.C. The virus is now endemic in four states; Pennsylvania, Florida, New York and Colorado.

Perhaps the biggest concern with the Canine Flu is that this is a new virus and dogs have not had a chance to develop protective antibodies to fight off the disease. It is estimated that 80% of dogs that are exposed will develop clinical signs. These signs include: runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and low grade fever. Like other influenza viruses, there is no specific treatment for the Canine Flu other than supportive care. It has been reported that up to 8% of dogs will die as a result of the Flu virus.

The good news is that a vaccine has recently been developed to protect our dogs. An initial injection is required, followed by a booster two to four weeks later. After the initial two shot series, an annual booster is necessary. We suggest that you contact your veterinarian regarding this emerging threat. For your convenience and health and well-being of your dogs the Orrville Veterinary Clinic, Seville Wadsworth Veterinary Clinic and Akron Barberton Veterinary Clinic are offering the vaccine. Please ask our staff if you are interested in protecting your dog at this time.

In addition to the Canine Influenza virus, all dogs must be current on the following vaccinations:

Distemper, Adenovirus type 2, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus (Yearly Combination vaccination)

Rabies (either 1 year or 3 year vaccination)

Bordetella Bronchiseptica (Kennel Cough) - Every 6 months

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.