

January 22, 2018

Hello from Top Notch Kennels –

We want to inform our family of clients about a troubling new concern – Canine Influenza. There are currently two strains: the H3N8 has existed in North America since 2004, and the most recent strain, the H3N2 emerged in the US in 2015. Although we have known about these viruses for some time, they have been limited to the East Coast, but no longer. Both strains have now reached closer to home. **Therefore, we need to act now and require that all of our Boarding, Daycare and Grooming guests receive the CIV vaccine, which covers both of these strains.**

The CIV vaccine is a series of two, given 3 weeks apart. Although most dogs who ‘catch the flu’ will simply be sick for a week or so (coughing, sneezing and an elevated temperature), dogs with compromised immune systems due to age or illness may face life threatening impacts.

As we know it will take some time for you to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian, we are making February 1, 2018 the date our requirement goes into effect. **We will not accept any dogs for Boarding, Daycare or Grooming beginning February 1, 2018, who have not had their first CIV vaccine.** Then, three weeks following the 1st dose, the 2nd dose will need to be administered to continue with our services.

We encourage you to make your dog’s veterinary appointment as soon as possible.

It is important to note that some vaccine manufacturers have a guarantee for their vaccines and will pay for diagnostic and treatment costs if your dog later contracts the canine influenza. We encourage you to check with your veterinarian for more information and recommendations for your dog.

If any dog displays symptoms of CIV while in our care (coughing, sneezing, lethargy, elevated temperature), we will isolate the dog, attempt to call the owner immediately, and make arrangements to get the dog to his veterinarian.

We will continue to do all that we can to maintain the safest facility possible, and will continue to put the health and happiness of your dog as our absolute top priority. Knowledge and transparency are important to us. Unfortunately, no amount of supervision, sanitation or personalized care can prevent a dog in a social environment from ‘catching’ an airborne virus, and we take every measure possible to minimize the risk. However, we know it’s just a matter of time before this virus is in Modesto, so the time for us and you as your dog’s owner to act is now.

Visit the [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](http://www.avma.org) website for further information about Canine Influenza. The future need for annual booster vaccinations has not been completely established by the AVMA. We will keep you informed as this information is developed.

Thank you for your continued support and faith in us as having the best interest of your dogs in mind.

The Pack at Top Notch Kennels