

Dear Valued Client,

We are writing to inform you about a Canine Healthcare Concern and some proactive steps you can take to protect your canine companions from Canine Flu!

Amity Woods Animal Hospital Canine Flu Vaccine Clinic Every Saturday in 2009 starting October 31st

What is Canine Flu?

Canine Influenza Virus (H3N8) has recently been confirmed in states surrounding Missouri. Here are the facts:

- **Where did it originate?:** It first presented itself in Florida in greyhounds in 2004 and has now been found in 30 states and the District of Columbia.
- **Who is at risk?:** One hundred percent of dogs are susceptible and eighty percent of infected dogs will show signs of infection. In about twenty percent of these cases, more severe signs will occur and up to eight percent of clinically ill dogs may die from complications like high fever and pneumonia.
- **What are the signs?:** The signs of Canine Influenza are similar to kennel cough and can therefore be easily dismissed by a pet's owner. These include coughing, sneezing, fever, nasal discharge and ocular (eye) discharge. Even dogs that do not show symptoms can still spread the virus. Unfortunately, by the time dogs would show signs of infection, they have unknowingly already been spreading the disease for 7-10 days.
- **What do I do if My Dog seems sick?:** Please be vigilant and if you notice that your dog is coughing, sneezing, running a fever, has a nasal discharge and ocular (eye) discharge, then immediately isolate your dog from other dogs and call Amity Woods Animal Hospital at 816-880-6650 and arrange to have your dog examined by one of our veterinarians.

The Canine Flu Vaccine

- The best way to protect your dogs from Canine Influenza is to maintain healthy pets, in order to strengthen their immune systems, and to immunize them with the Canine Influenza Vaccine.
- The vaccine has been proven safe and well tolerated in over 700 dogs. The vaccine is initially a series of two injections given 2-3 weeks apart and then annually.
- Amity Woods Animal Hospital recommends the vaccine for dogs that socialize with other dogs in places such as veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, pet stores, daycares, dog parks and obedience classes. Your dog should be at least 8 weeks old and have no history of vaccine reactions in the past. Our team members are vaccinating their own dogs to demonstrate our confidence in the safety and importance of this vaccine.
- One of the most disturbing things about Canine Flu is that animals that are in the contagious stage and shedding the virus, show no symptoms. Infected dogs may not show signs until after they are finished shedding the virus to other dogs. Infectious dogs may look perfectly normal, and act perfectly normal, while spreading the disease to other dogs. For that reason, vaccination is really the only practical way of preventing severe disease.

Amity Woods Animal Hospital Flu Vaccine Clinic

- **When?:** All Saturdays in 2009 starting October 31st. during our regular hospital hours (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- **Do I need an Appointment?:** This is a walk-in clinic for existing current patients so no appointments are scheduled and there will be no office visit charge. However, the clinic will only administer vaccinations and not treat other issues with your dog.
- **What is the cost?:** The vaccine will cost \$20 per injection with no office visit charge (this is a \$5 savings off regular price). Payment is due at the time services are given. You may pay with cash, check (with a valid drivers license) or major credit/debit card.
- **Where is the Clinic?:** [Amity Woods Animal Hospital](#) has organized our flu vaccine clinic in our Lodge Exam Room, so please enter at the Lodge entrance. Clients coming solely for the flu clinic will be seen separately from the sick office visits for the day.

If you have any questions about Canine Influenza, the Canine Influenza Vaccination, our Canine Flu Vaccine Clinic, or directions please call us and speak to one of our Healthcare Team members or visit our website at www.amitywoods.com.

We have included the following links to access more information about the disease.

[Washington Post Article](#)

[CDC Center for Disease Control website - Canine Flu](#)

[AVMA American Veterinary Medical Association - Canine Flu](#)

[University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine FAQ's](#)

[Intervet Schering Plough Animal Health Canine Flu and Canine Flu Vaccine](#)

[Discovery Channel Article](#)

[Baltimore Sun Article](#)

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Investing in proactive preventative healthcare for our pets, improves their quality of life, increases their longevity, and decreases long-term and unexpected healthcare costs.

Thank you for making us a part of your family and entrusting us with the care of your pets. At Amity Woods Animal Hospital, we not only believe, but understand why:
"Nothing warms the heart like a cold nose."

Warm Regards,

The Doctors and entire Healthcare Team at [Amity Woods Animal Hospital](#).