



233 Rutgers Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040  
www.preferredpetcare.com  
Telephone: (973) 762-7007 Fax: (973) 762-5618

## RE: VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Preferred Pet Care, Inc. has decided that it is in the best interest of our canine customers to begin **requiring** the Canine Influenza Vaccine for all guests. This new requirement will go into effect as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Please be aware that the first year of vaccination for your dog will require two vaccinations spaced 2-4 weeks apart. **We will not consider your dog vaccinated until two weeks after their second shot.** If you are planning to book a reservation for your dog over the holidays (i.e. Thanksgiving or Christmas) we strongly urge you to make an appointment with your veterinarian today. Each successive year will require a single booster.

### **What is canine influenza?**

Canine flu is a viral respiratory infection with symptoms similar to Bordetella, including runny nose, coughing, lethargic behavior, loss of appetite and fever. Because this is a new virus in dogs, virtually all dogs that are exposed will become infected and up to 20% of them may develop a severe form exhibiting high fever and pneumonia.

### **What are my dogs' risk factors?**

Canine Influenza is a new virus in the dog community and as a result, they lack any pre-existing immunity. All dogs exposed to the virus will contract the virus. Dogs who are housed together where there is a high turnover are at the highest risk. Therefore dog parks, pet stores, shelters, grooming salons, veterinary clinics, daycare centers, boarding facilities and dog shows are considered high risk locations. Canine Influenza is not a seasonal infection and can occur year round. If your dog stays at home, doesn't socialize with other dogs and only walks around the neighborhood they would not be considered at risk.

### **Is the vaccine safe?**

In a study of over 700 dogs with 30 breeds and an age range of 6 weeks to 10 years there were no adverse reactions to the vaccine and it was classified as well tolerated. In the past year over 500,000 dogs were vaccinated and the vaccine has continued to be well-tolerated. Potential adverse reactions are the same as other common vaccines. The vaccination was granted full license in June, 2010 by the USDA after one year of use with a provisional license.

For more information please go to:

[www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com)

[www.avma.org/public\\_health/influenza/canine\\_bgnd.asp](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/canine_bgnd.asp)