



Vaccination Information For Canine Influenza Virus (CIV)

By Dr. Drew Luce

- 1) Proper vaccination with the Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) vaccine will require two (2) vaccine injections. Each injection should be given two to four weeks apart, followed by a yearly booster. Subsequent to the second injection, your pet will not be considered protected from the virus until a minimum of 14 days.

For example:

- It is August 22nd and you have a boarding reservation scheduled for September 30th.
 - In order to have your pet protected, you will need to schedule your pet's first CIV vaccine injection no later than August 31st.
 - Subsequently, you will need to schedule an appointment so that your pet receives the second CIV vaccine injection two to four weeks later.
 - Since you have a boarding reservation on September 30th, you will need to have your pet's second vaccine appointment by September 15th, but no earlier than September 14th, which satisfies the minimum two week waiting period, following the first vaccine injection.
 - After the second CIV vaccine injection is received, your dog awaits an additional two weeks prior to boarding on September 30th.
 - On September 30th, your pet is considered protected against the CIV.
 - Following the two vaccine injection series, you will need to schedule an appointment for your pet to receive his or her yearly booster around September 30th of the following year.
- 2) Current research has shown that following the protocols of properly vaccinating your pet, as outlined above, will provide at least one year of protective antibody response against CIV. That said, however, this may change in the future as further immunity studies become available.
 - 3) At Aldie Veterinary Hospital, we are taking this virus seriously. As such, CIV vaccination will be **REQUIRED** for any canines staying in our hospital or our boarding facility, unless medical reasons preclude vaccination. CIV vaccination will also be required for all canines who participate in dog park activities, boarding, day care, training, group canine activities, etc. This includes canines visiting Aldie Veterinary Hospital (AVH).



- 4) AVH urges pet owners to consider vaccinating their pets even if they are relatively isolated at home, as this virus transmits easily and in some cases can be deadly. Realize that some animals may have contracted the virus yet show no clinical symptoms. What this means is that it will be impossible to prevent the spread of this virus, making CIV vaccination that much more important.
- 5) Under no circumstances will AVH recommend CIV vaccination of pets that are sick or unhealthy, as determined by one of our Veterinarians.
- 6) CIV vaccinations of pets with medical problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis with proper communication between our staff Veterinarians and our clients regarding the risks of vaccination versus the risk of not vaccinating.
- 7) The CIV vaccine has been shown to be safe, in a controlled study, involving over 700 canines. There are no studies to demonstrate its safety in conjunction with other vaccinations or medications. For this reason, CIV vaccinations will be accomplished outside of normal vaccine schedules until further information is received regarding its safety.
- 8) To help pet owner's ease of vaccinating their animals, they may schedule their appointments with a technician or a doctor. As long as your pet is not overdue for his/her annual exam, NO examination fee will be charged for a CIV vaccination, unless there are other problems to be addressed with the doctor.
- 9) If your pet is overdue for his or her annual exam, then an examination fee will apply in order to comply with the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary-client – patient relationships statute. This statute dictates that any animal receiving a vaccination must have a current examination and deemed to be healthy in order to receive said vaccination.
- 10) If you suspect that your pet has been infected with CIV, please call our office to make an appointment, immediately. We will draw blood from your pet, which will be tested for the levels of antibodies to the virus. The results of this test take between five to seven days to receive. If the test results indicate that your pet's antibodies are elevated, then your pet may not need to be vaccinated as they may have natural protection. However, this will be determined on an individual basis.
- 11) Any questions regarding our CIV vaccination recommendations or policies should be directed to Beth Shelton, LVT or to one of the staff Veterinarians.