

# CANINE INFLUENZA

## KENTUCKY 4-H DOG PROGRAM

Canine influenza, also referred to as dog flu, is a respiratory virus in dogs. The virus is highly contagious and spreads by coughing, sneezing, and barking of infected dogs and by contact with contaminated objects (such as kennels, food and water bowls, collars, leashes, clothing, etc.).

Symptoms may include cough, runny nose, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite. However, signs may range from no symptoms to severe illness. In some cases of severe illness, dogs may develop pneumonia.

In Kentucky, positive cases of canine influenza have been identified. The Kentucky 4-H Dog Program highly recommends that dogs participating in any 4-H dog show receive a vaccination against canine influenza. The vaccination is given in two doses two to four weeks apart.

Additional information is available from the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (see References).

### References:

American Veterinary Medical Association. 2017. Canine influenza. Available online at <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Canine-Influenza-Backgrounder.aspx>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2017. Key Facts about Canine Influenza. Available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/canineflu/keyfacts.htm>.



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