



123 Miller Road • Avon Lake, Ohio 44012



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******* Health Alert *******

Dear Friends,

In an effort to provide our clients with the highest level of care, we have been monitoring disease for which our canine patients may be considered to have an increased risk. Canine Influenza Virus (CIV – H₃N₈) is an emerging disease and the canine population is very susceptible. A recent outbreak of Asian Influenza (H₃N₂) in Chicago resulted in thousands of sick dogs (some fatalities), closed boarding facilities and overwhelmed veterinary hospitals.

We consider the outbreak in Chicago to be a “wake up call” to the risk of an influenza outbreak in our community. The current influenza virus vaccine (H₃N₈) may not have been protective for the virus outbreak in Chicago (H₃N₂). However, CIV (H₃N₈) is currently the most active influenza virus in the country and we do have a vaccine for this strain. Given the seriousness of this disease and the very social nature of our canine population, the doctors and staff of the Avon Lake Animal Clinic have decided to start requiring this vaccine for our boarding, daycare and grooming dogs.

The vaccination will be given as a series of two doses, three to four weeks apart and then yearly after that time. Please know that we understand that there will be a period of time that we are involved in getting your pet and others up to date on this vaccine series. Please do not panic if you have upcoming boarding reservations. The first vaccine in the series will not be mandatory until July 1, 2015. The CIV vaccine will not be required for regular drop-offs at the hospital.

It is a great compliment that you trust us to care for your pet. Please know that this decision is made with them in mind. We would much rather be proactive and informative than play catch up after an outbreak that may involve your pet while visiting our facility. Please call today to schedule an appointment to begin your pet on this vaccine series.

Sincerely,

James Haddad, DVM
Chief of Staff