



# H3N2 CANINE INFLUENZA ALERT!

## A RAPIDLY SPREADING & DANGEROUS VIRUS

Alerts from the LA County Veterinary Public Health Department and Southern California Veterinary Medical Association have provided important and urgent information about the Canine Influenza H3N2 virus outbreak which is surging across LA County at unprecedented levels.



Well over 800 cases have been confirmed and suspected in LA County and 9+ reported deaths since July.

Outbreaks of this extremely contagious and potentially fatal virus have been confirmed in several animal shelters and boarding facilities in the Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

LA County is the only county in California that requires reporting of canine influenza, so it can be challenging to have a clear understanding of the actual rising number of cases of canine influenza in other areas. Additionally, many pet owners opt not to pay for lab work when their dogs are symptomatic, so many cases may not even be included in the counting and reporting for statistic purposes.

Multiple cases have been traced back to boarding facilities, doggie day care facilities, and dog parks. Some dogs have been infected simply during walks with their owners. Dogs having contact with any other dogs are at risk!

In preparation for the upcoming holidays and anticipated travel, pet boarding, and doggie day care, it is important for dogs to get vaccinated for CIV H3N2 and Leptospirosis, and owners to be aware of the seriousness of these outbreaks.

**HEART now offers the combo H3N2/H3N8 vaccine** which will be provided as a "stand alone" vaccine only, meaning that it will not be administered at the same time your dog receives any other vaccines, and HEART requires that at least 2 weeks pass after your dog receives any other vaccine before it receives the H3N2/H3N8 vaccine. This is part of HEART's safety protocol which has been implemented to 1) help prevent any potential vaccine reaction; and 2) determine which vaccine your dog may be allergic to in the rare event that your dog experiences any type of vaccine reaction.

An initial 2-dose series is required. The second dose may be administered any time between 2 to 6 weeks after the first dose. *(The same "stand alone" protocol is also recommended by HEART for the Leptospirosis vaccine which also requires an initial 2-dose series. HEART also offers Leptospirosis vaccinations).*

The Veterinary Public Health Program of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health strongly recommends that dogs receive both the H3N2 and Leptospirosis vaccines.

We encourage all dog owners to speak with their regular veterinarians or to contact us to obtain more information about the viruses and vaccines or to simply schedule appointments for these vaccinations.

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, go to our website [HEART4PETS.ORG](http://HEART4PETS.ORG).**

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