Canine Influenza Virus, also known as the Dog Flu, is a serious, highly contagious respiratory disease that can affect both cats and dogs. Both the H3N2 and the H3N8 strains of the disease can lead to serious illness requiring medical care or hospitalization. The disease can be fatal.

A new vaccine protects dogs against both the H3N2 and the H3N8 strains of the virus. There is no vaccine to protect cats, who rarely acquire the illness.

Should my dog be vaccinated?

Your veterinarian can best advise you about vaccinations for your pet. Generally, vaccinations for the Canine Influenza Virus may be appropriate for your dog if it is highly social or if it visits places such as:

- Dog parks and beaches
- Doggy daycare
- Groomers
- Boarding kennels
- Elevators, stairwells and hallways of multi-unit, multi-dog buildings
- Dog shows

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- FEVER
- DISCHARGE FROM THE NOSE OR EYES
- VOMITING
- DRY, HACKING COUGH
- LETHARGY
- LOSS OF APPETITE
- DRY, HACKING COUGH
- FEVER
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- LETHARGY
- LOSS OF APPETITE

What to do:

If your cat or dog shows symptoms of the Canine Influenza Virus, isolate them from other animals and contact your veterinarian immediately.