

# *Marco Veterinary Hospital*

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## **\*\*ATTENTION DOG OWNERS\*\***

### CANINE INFLUENZA H3N2 ALERT 5/31/17

As you have heard, the University of Florida has seen multiple cases of a new strain of a **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** canine flu. They estimate approximately 80% of dogs who are exposed to it will develop symptoms & are recommending that dogs be vaccinated against it (2 doses, 2-4 weeks apart) **ASAP**. This is **NOT** the strain we've been vaccinating for previously. There is no evidence that it is contagious to people, but dogs, & even some cats, can catch it if exposed.

We **STRONGLY** recommend this vaccine---let's keep Marco free from this nasty disease!

Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, & sometimes a high fever that can progress to pneumonia. Though most dogs recover with treatment, the course can be quite long, 2-3 weeks **EVEN WITH APPROPRIATE MEDICATION**. Treated dogs, as well as their cat & dog housemates who haven't developed symptoms, must be isolated from contacting other dogs and cats for 4 weeks....it's just that contagious.

If you suspect your pet may have been exposed, or if symptoms develop, **PLEASE CALL AHEAD** to let us know you are coming to the clinic as we will take special precautions to check your pet without exposing others to it. This may include treating your pet in your car, wearing mask and gloves when handling, and special decontamination procedures.