

# Marietta Animal Hospital

8141 Ramona Blvd W.  
Jacksonville, FL 32221

For Our Clients,

You are receiving this letter, because your pet has stayed at Marietta Animal Hospital within the past year for either bathing or boarding. We wish to inform you of some new information now available about a newly emerging disease in dogs called Canine Influenza (CIV). Although this is a serious disease, we believe we can minimize the risk to our patients with continued client education and evolving hospital policies. Our focus will be to identify high risk patients and circumstances and limit exposure whenever possible. For those patients at risk, we will be **recommending** the CIV vaccine that has recently become available, because of isolated outbreaks that have occurred in Florida. However, we may make it a required vaccine for hospital boarder and bath patients in the future, if we believe the the risk warrants further action. We will also advise that pets at high risk of exposure outside the hospital also be vaccinated, as well.

CIV is a dog to dog disease and does not affect people that can cause symptoms similar to 'kennel cough', which includes cough, fever, and a runny nose. Some cases can progress to a more serious pneumonia. Most dogs have the more mild form of the disease and will recover with symptomatic treatment. Pneumonia cases may require hospital care and can be life-threatening. Since this is a relatively new disease, nearly all dogs are susceptible. Some dogs may be asymptomatic (no symptoms), but still contagious and spreading the virus.

The disease is spread by direct dog to dog contact with respiratory secretions, by contact with contaminated objects and by people moving between sick and healthy dogs. The currently available vaccine **will not prevent** your dog from getting CIV. It will significantly reduce the course and severity of the disease, meaning your dog will be less sick and for a shorter period of time. It will also significantly reduce the risk that your pet will have life-threatening complications, such as pneumonia. High risk pets include those that go to grooming facilities, dog parks, doggie day care, boarding facilities, dog training and classes and dog shows. If your pet engages in these activities, we advise you to consider the CIV vaccine for your pet. If your pet is ill, we advise you to keep your pet away from these situations and both you and your pet should avoid contact with other pets. Keep your pet away from dogs showing symptoms of upper respiratory disease. If your pet has any upper respiratory symptoms, notify us prior to your appointment, so we can isolate your pet from the other patients.

You are not required to do anything at this time. If you wish to have more information about this particular disease and protecting your pet, you can visit our website at [www.marietta lovespets.com](http://www.marietta lovespets.com), as well as, the CDC ([cdc.gov/healthypets](http://cdc.gov/healthypets)) and the American Veterinary Medical Association ([avma.org](http://avma.org)). If you wish to have your pet vaccinated, please call for an

appointment. Your pet will need to have an initial vaccine followed by a booster 2-4 weeks later and then yearly boosters. Ideally, the pet should receive, at least one vaccine prior to their boarding or bath stay in the hospital. We will continue to update our website, if changes are made to our hospital policy. As always, our primary concern has been and will always be the welfare of your furry family members. If you have additional concerns, you can contact us at 904-783-2574.

Sincerely

Dr. Rene' M. Cinque