THE CURRENT FACTS ABOUT THE CANINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN CHICAGO

April 16, 2015

1. The INFLUENZA outbreak in Chicago has spread to Indiana and Wisconsin.
2. This Influenza Virus is H2N2, which is NOT the same strain (H3N8) which has been reported in NY, NJ, and other states previously.
3. Canine Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease of dogs.
4. The disease has two forms: The mild form which is characterized by a moist cough that persists up to 30 days, sneezing, fever, and poor appetite. The severe form is characterized by high fever, and pneumonia.
5. The reported fatality rate is less than 10%.
6. **As of 4-15-15, there has not been a reported case of Canine Influenza in New Jersey.**
7. It is not known whether, or how much, the current Canine Influenza Vaccine (H2N8) will protect against the Influenza Virus occurring currently in the Midwest.
8. It is believed that Influenza vaccines may offer some cross-protection by stimulating the immune system, and reducing the severity or length of the disease. (This past year’s flu outbreak turned out to be a different strain from the Flu Vaccine, but people that were vaccinated had fewer, and less severe flu infections.)
9. The NJ Department of Health and the NJ Department of Agriculture have sent out recommendations for prevention of the Canine Influenza (CIV).
   - A canine influenza vaccine is available and persons who board their dogs (including daycare), visit dog parks, or whose dogs are exposed to other dogs should discuss vaccination with their veterinarians.
   - It is recommended that persons operating boarding or day care facilities for dogs require all dogs to be currently vaccinated no less the 4 weeks prior to entry into the facility.
   - Dogs that are exposed or infected need to be quarantined from other dogs.
10. The NJ Department of Health has stated that “It is anticipated that the outbreak will continue to spread.”
11. We have used the currently available vaccine for CIV for several years. The vaccine is SAFE.
12. As of 4-16-15 the Canine Influenza Vaccine is on back order.