

AVMA



American Veterinary Medical Association

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Dr. Richard E. Hill, Director
USDA APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
510 South 17th St. Suite 104
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Dr. Hill,

The AVMA believes there is an urgent need for an effective canine influenza virus vaccine to improve the health and welfare of animals and reduce the financial impacts of canine influenza.

Canine influenza virus (CIV) is a newly emerging pathogen of dogs. It is found throughout the United States. Similar to influenza viruses of other species, CIV is highly contagious, reaching infection rates greater than 90% following exposure.

More than 80% of infected dogs develop clinical respiratory disease. Some may develop fatal complications. Even though CIV is associated with low natural mortality, hundreds of dogs have already died as a direct result of infection or during depopulation of animal shelters to control outbreaks.

Financial losses due to outbreaks occurring in the greyhound racing industry, boarding kennels, veterinary practices, and animal shelters are estimated to be greater than \$5 million since 2004.

Influenza vaccines in other species such as humans, horses and pigs have been effective in limiting the spread of influenza and reducing the morbidity and mortality.

We recognize the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics is accepting veterinary biologic product license applications for canine influenza virus vaccine and related diagnostic test kits.

Given the impact of the disease, we encourage the CVB to license an effective vaccine to improve the health and welfare of animals and reduce the financial impacts of the virus.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Little, DVM
Executive Vice President

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