



NEWS RELEASE

Dog Flu Spreads Across U.S., Old Town Animal Care Clinic Offers Half-Price Vaccines

Dr. Tony stresses the urgency of vaccinating dogs against two strains of flu virus that have sickened dogs in 46 states

CHICAGO (January 15, 2018) – Is Fido sneezing, lethargic and not acting like himself? Make an appointment with the veterinarian, because he may have contracted canine influenza, or “dog flu.” The U.S. is experiencing an extended outbreak of canine influenza, with cases confirmed in 46 states as of October 2017, according to [Merck Animal Health](#). And even though dog flu is generally something that just has to be waited out, the American Veterinary Medical Association warns that up to 10 percent of cases can cause death.

The Chicago area has been hard-hit by dog flu over the past few years, according to Dr. Tony Kremer of [Old Town Animal Care Center](#) (OTACC). OTACC is offering the canine influenza vaccine, Nobivac Canine Flu Bivalent, at half-price (\$24) through during the month of February to thwart the spread of dog flu. The vaccine will prevent or lessen the severity of dog flu caused by the H3N2 and H3N8 viruses.

“We have no reason to believe that flu will go away, especially with how few dogs in the population are vaccinated,” said Dr. Kremer. “People think that the flu vaccine is only for situations where a pet is being boarded or groomed, going to daycare, visiting a dog park, or attending training or agility classes, but their dog could catch it just as easily going for a walk where another dog has been.”

Humans cannot contract dog flu. It is a highly contagious respiratory illness spread among dogs when they lick, sniff and nuzzle each other, share food bowls, or are around another dog that is coughing or sneezing. Symptoms of dog flu include coughing, sneezing, runny nose and eyes, fever over 103 degrees F, lethargy and trouble breathing. Symptoms of dog flu can be similar to kennel cough. Although most cases of dog flu are mild, the virus can lead to pneumonia, difficulty breathing and, occasionally, death.

“Dog flu is extremely contagious, so we are eager to get ahead of it,” said Dr. Kremer. “Area pets won’t be safe until many more dogs in the population have protection by vaccination.”

Information and statistics about canine influenza are available at Merck Animal Health’s website www.dogflu.com.

To schedule an appointment for a vaccination, call (312) 428-2571, or visit <https://oldtownvetcare.com>.

About Old Town Animal Care Center

Located at 511 W. North Avenue between Old Town and Lincoln Park in Chicago, Old Town Animal Care Center is a premier, full-service pet care facility offering more than the traditional veterinary care for dogs, cats and exotic pets including turtles, snakes, guinea pigs, ferrets, birds and more. It is open seven days a week, offering boarding, pet daycare, grooming services, dog training and animal adoption. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (312) 428-2571 or visit <https://oldtownvetcare.com>.

About Dr. Tony Kremer

Dr. Tony Kremer is a prominent veterinarian based in Chicago, Illinois who currently operates 10 veterinary hospitals (www.drtony.com) in the Chicago area and Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Kremer is the President and co-founder of Help Save Pets (HelpSavePets.org) an animal shelter that has adopted nearly 15,000 animals into loving homes. He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate course work at The Ohio State University in orthopedic surgery. He has a special interest in Orthopedic surgery, performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well. In his veterinary practices, Dr. Kremer brings the latest technology and techniques to his patients. Dr. Kremer has founded three scholarship programs for veterinary students who have financial need. He is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee and is a certified Veterinary journalist, appearing on television and radio over 300 times nationwide for more than two decades.

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