



770-487-4074 . ptCAAnimalClinic.com

## Notes From The Exam Table



### Canine Influenza

There is a new disease that has emerged called Canine Influenza virus. This disease started in racing greyhounds in Florida about 6 years ago and since it first emerged it has been causing serious illness in the dogs that have contracted the disease. It then began to spread to the general population and has now been found in 30 states.

Canine Influenza is still a very active disease today. I am aware of no known cases in the Peachtree City area to date. However, this summer there were several diagnosed cases in the surrounding area. The disease is here in our community and the only way your pet can be protected is through vaccination.

All dogs are susceptible to the Canine Influenza virus since this is a new disease and no dog has previous immunity to it. Once contracted, the canine flu kills about 1 out of 20 dogs. This flu is transmitted from dog to dog the same as our flu is transmitted from person to person. Your pet only has to come in contact with another dog one time to contract the Flu. It can also be transmitted by sneezing, eating after another dog or from sniffing at each other. Any dog that boards, goes to the groomer, walks on the cart paths, or goes to the dog park should be vaccinated to prevent them from catching the Canine Flu. However, since the disease is easily transmitted I strongly recommend that all pets receive the vaccine.

Please speak with us about protecting your dog from this fatal disease. We are happy to answer any questions you have about the disease or the vaccine.

Dr. Watts

