

PARVO VIRUS

Help prevent spread and protect your pet!

Origins

Canine parvovirus first became prevalent in the late 1970s and continues to be endemic/ embedded in many areas of the country...including NM... All domestic and wild canines are at risk.

Vaccination

We are always happy to discuss the appropriate vaccination protocol for your pet, but due to high risk of exposure, multiple parvo boosters are ALWAYS recommended for young puppies. Proper vaccination and limiting exposure are highly effective at preventing disease. Adult animals may be able to titer as opposed to boosting, be sure to ask for more information if interested!

Cats, too...

Canine parvovirus is thought to have originated as a mutation of the Feline Panleukopenia virus (PLP). We still see PLP sporadically in cats, so it is important to keep them well-vaccinated as well!

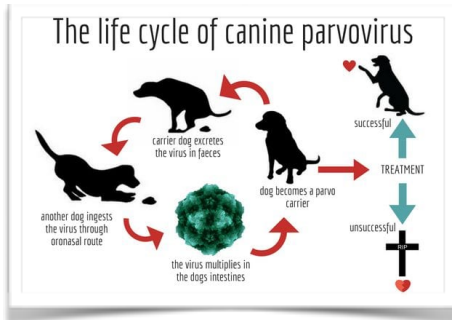


Canine Parvovirus (CPV-2)

Parvo is a highly contagious, very serious, and sometimes fatal disease seen commonly in our area of the country. Parvo is very expensive to treat and not every puppy will survive, despite our best efforts. Proper immunizations and prevention are key to protect your puppy!

Parvo most commonly causes severe vomiting and diarrhea in young puppies, or even adults without proper vaccination history. Life-threatening complications may arise from dehydration and sepsis [bacterial migration into the bloodstream].

Parvo is a non-enveloped virus which means it is very resistant and difficult to eliminate from the environment. It is spread via fecal-oral contamination [contact with feces from an infected dog]...this can occur in high traffic areas like pet stores or dog parks, or even due to cross-contamination where people can track the virus on their shoes or their person and unknowingly cause infection. For this reason, it is best for young puppies to stay



Afterwards...

Once a parvo puppy recovers enough to return home, there are some important considerations as well as required environmental decontamination.

- Parvo is very resistant to environmental conditions and many common cleaners—deep cleaning/disposal of contaminated items/areas is vitally important.
- In protected areas, parvovirus can survive for months to years—it is important not to introduce new puppies to your home until it is decontaminated.
- Direct sunlight for several weeks will kill parvovirus, dilute bleach solutions, and other medical grade disinfectants can also help eliminate the virus. Please ask for help!
- Recovering puppies should be separated from housemates for at least 3 weeks after returning home.
- Although puppies are unlikely to contract parvo again, annual vaccination is still important to decrease shedding of the virus as well as protection against other serious diseases.

home/limit exposure to safe locations/well vaccinated dogs until their initial vaccination series is complete. It may take several days after exposure for your puppy to begin to show signs of illness. Owners of young puppies should also consider disinfecting/changing their shoes or clothes when coming home.

Treatment in hospital can take several days and consists of intensive IV fluid and antibiotic therapy. Home treatment is more difficult due to the risks of severe dehydration. Parvo is much easier to prevent than it is to cure.

Warmer weather always seems to bring about an increase in the number of parvo cases that we see. Parvo puppies are kept in strict isolation from other animals in the hospital and have dedicated nursing staff who observes strict decontamination and hygiene protocols.

Learn More

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has an excellent synopsis on their website at — <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/canine-parvovirus>.

WHAT IS

PARVO

The canine parvovirus (CPV) infection is a highly contagious viral illness that affects dogs. The virus manifests itself in two different forms. The intestinal form and the less common form which is the cardiac form.

SYMPTOMS

- Bloody diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Dehydration
- Vomiting
- Collapse

TREATMENT

This is a viral infection with no known real cure. The Parvovirus treatment is focussed on curing the symptoms and also preventing secondary bacterial infections. This is also preferably done in a hospital environment. The key to recovery is intensive therapy and systemic support.



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