

Protect Your Pup Against Parvo

WHAT IS IT?

Parvo is a virus that attacks the lining of the digestive system. It causes dogs and puppies to not be able to absorb nutrients or liquids. Puppies are especially prone to it because they have an immature immune system. When dogs and puppies contract parvo, they often have diarrhea, vomiting and lethargy. Usually they stop eating and develop a bloody, foul-smelling, liquid stool. Death is usually quick and painful.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms usually begin with a high fever, lethargy, depression, and loss of appetite. Secondary symptoms appear as severe gastrointestinal distress, such as vomiting, bloody diarrhea and rapid weight loss. In many cases, dehydration, shock, and death follow.

HOW DO THEY GET IT?

Dogs and puppies can contract parvo even if they never leave their yards. Parvo virus, despite what you might hear, is NOT an airborne virus. It is excreted in the feces of infected dogs, and if someone -- human, dog, bird, etc. -- steps in (or otherwise comes in contact with) the excrement, the possibility for contamination is great. If you have had an infected dog in your home or yard - it is advised not to bring another animal into the home for 6 months.

WILL MY DOG DIE?

This is a very serious disease. Some puppies infected with parvovirus will die despite prompt and adequate treatment. While no extremely accurate statistics are available, a good guess is probably that 80% of puppies treated for parvovirus will live. Without treatment, probably 50% or more of the infected puppies would die.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY DOG/PUP?

All puppies 6-8 weeks and older should have a series of vaccinations, which includes a vaccination to prevent parvo. Until your pup has been vaccinated **DO NOT** let him walk in a public area. Especially, **DO NOT** let him walk in areas frequented by other dogs. Some veterinarians even suggest that the puppy is not fully protected until 2 weeks after the last of the series of vaccinations has been given.



Be a responsible pet owner...

Vaccinate & Re-Vaccinate Yearly!