



PARVO PROTOCOL

1. Background. Parvo in dogs is caused by the canine parvovirus. This virus is highly contagious and spreads through direct contact with an infected dog or by indirect contact with a contaminated object. A dog is exposed to the parvovirus every time he sniffs, licks, or consumes infected feces. Though mainly effecting puppies under six months whom have not been fully vaccinated, it is possible for adult dogs to contract the parvovirus.

2. Objective. The below plan of action and protocol should assist in limiting the transmission and infection of shelter residence.

3. Vaccination. Vaccination against the parvovirus is the highest means of protection against contracting the virus. Upon administration of the vaccine, a dog receives protection within three to five days. For nursing puppies, maternal antivirals serve short-term protection, but should begin injection of vaccines according to the below schedule.

- a. Puppies will begin vaccinations at four (4) weeks of age, with the series being conducted in two-week intervals. Once a series is started, shots two, three, and four should be placed on the SPCA calendar until such time tracking software auto-alerts to the vaccination.
- b. Puppies under the age of twelve (12) months that are stray or surrendered without proof of shot records will adhere to item (1) schedule of vaccinations.
- c. Dogs that enter the shelter that are over twelve (12) months of age will receive a vaccination prior to entering the kennels, unless the dog is a stray AND microchip with positive contact made for pick-up. Strays that will go to Animal Control will not receive a vaccine.

Dogs that fall under item 3a or 3b will not be authorized to leave their kennel, interact with other dogs, or be placed outside on the ground until their series is complete. All puppies entering quarantine shall be bathed using dish soap prior to entering isolation.

4. Quarantine. Kennels I-9 through I-16 will serve as quarantine kennels for all stray, newly rescued, or puppies undergoing the vaccine series.

Stray, New Rescue Isolation: I-9 I-10 I-13 I-14

Category 3a/3b During Vaccine Series: I-11 I-12 I-15 I-16

Quarantine for strays and newly rescued above the age of twelve (12) months will be no less than five (5) days. During these five days, if they experience watery vomiting, more than one episode of diarrhea, blood in feces, loss of energy, or lack of diet/hydration- the period of five days restarts once resolved.

Any dog that has tested positive will complete a quarantine of fourteen (14) days following the resolve of their symptoms and/or treatment, whichever comes last. It must be noted that dogs whom were prescribed antibiotics for prolong periods, may experience running stools while the antibiotics exit their system. Upon their stool starting to harden or becoming less liquid, the fourteen-day period may start as long as all medications/treatment are complete and there are no other signs or symptoms. A retest is not required so long as all symptoms resolve, treatment is complete, and quarantine is conducted.

All dogs exiting quarantine and being placed in general housing shall receive a bath prior to being placed in general housing.

5. General Housing. Dogs should each have their own kennel unless the following is met.

- a. No more than two dogs per kennel unless surrendered/rescued as bonded or otherwise together (from same house, hoarding case, etc.).
- b. If two dogs will be kenneled together that do not meet item (1), they must have each completed quarantine upon intake as described above and have completed an additional five (5) days alone in their own kennel outside of isolation with no issues.

If two dogs kenneled together start to display symptoms mentioned in item (4), they will immediately be separated. An empty isolation kennel may be used per item (4) if no other kennels are available.

Any dog that is in general housing that test positive for the parvovirus will immediately be moved to isolation. Their general housing kennel shall remain empty from the time they are removed for a vet visit and for a period of twenty-four (24) hours after. During this time, the kennel shall be cleaned in accordance with item (6) at least twice during this period.

6. Cleaning Isolation. Once parvovirus is introduced into the shelter, meticulous cleaning in accordance with scientifically proven methods are required. The parvovirus is easily eradicated from areas in which are made of concrete, metal, and plastic. However, parvovirus can live for years within soil.

a. Isolation kennels for puppies in category 3a or 3b will adhere to strict isolation and cleaning procedures to prevent the spread and contraction of parvovirus. These puppies will have kennel staff enter their area only twice, unless otherwise required during a given twenty-four (24) hour period.

b. When entering the area for item 6a, staff will place shoe coverings on. Only one staff member shall enter during any one time. Shoe coverings will be removed upon exiting the area for any reason and will be discarded. New coverings are required upon entry each time.

In the event there are not shoe coverings available, two (2) foot baths with high concentration Accel will be used. The staff member shall step into the first bath and move their feet around. Step out and directly onto a towel. Move your feet around to remove any debris. Step directly into the second bath and move feet around for a period of 30 seconds. Step directly into the isolation area.

c. A pooper scooper(s) for these kennels will be used in isolation that is not used in general housing. This device(s) will not be used in any other kennel and will be kept in a bucket with Accel anytime it is not in use. The scooper shall be put into one bucket and moved around to clean and then placed into the second bucket after each kennel cleaned for at least five (5) minutes before moving to the next kennel to prevent the transmission of parvo to another kennel. The bucket shall be cleaned and refilled every week, on Sunday.

d. Upon entry, staff members shall scoop as much feces as possible, including diarrhea to the best extent possible. Vomit shall also be scooped. Discard these items in a trash bag, and do not use this bag in any other section of the shelter.

e. After scooping, a high concentration Accel should be used. Cover the floor, all concrete, and at least three feet of the walls upwards from the ground. A temporary pin can be used inside the kennel to contain the kenneled animal(s) during this process. Allow Accel to sit for ten minutes and then spray out the kennel. If a temporary pin was used, move the dog(s) to the clean side after this period and complete the same process for the area in which the pin was located.

f. If any dog has fecal matter or vomit on them from being in the kennel, use dish soap and water to remove it from their body, and rinse/dry with water.

g. This process should be completed each morning. During PM feedings, all feces and vomit shall be removed from the kennel and spot clean (mist) with Accel. No rinse required as long as a puddle of Accel did not form.

h. Linen from the isolation kennels will not be cleaned with linen from general housing. All linen will be cleaned with laundry detergent as well as bleach.

7. Cleaning General Housing. Only Accel should be used daily to clean kennels. A standard concentration should be sprayed covering the floor, all concrete, and at least three feet of the walls upwards from the ground. Allow to sit for five to ten (5-10) minutes. On Sunday's, this process will be completed using a high concentration Accel.

8. Cleaning Solutions. Only Accel will be used to clean dog kennels. Bleach will only be used to clean linen. The below chart may be used in the event the shelter is out of Accel.



Shelter Disinfectant Quick Reference

Disinfectant	Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide	Potassium Peroxymonosulfate	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)	Calcium Hypochlorite	Regular Household Bleach* (Sodium Hypochlorite)
Effective against non-enveloped viruses?	Yes, dilute 1:32	Yes at 1%	Not according to independent published research	Yes	Yes, dilute 1:32 (1/2 cup per gallon)
Effective against ringworm following effective pre-cleaning?	Yes, dilute 1:16	Yes at 2%	Yes, if labeled fungicidal against <i>Trichophyton</i> spp.	Not according to independent published research	Yes, dilute 1:32 (1/2 cup per gallon)
Inactivated by organic material?	Minimal	Slightly less inactivation than bleach or quats	Mildly inactivated	Yes	Yes
Requires cleaning as separate step?	Some detergent activity, but cleaning beforehand recommended for heavily soiled surfaces	Some detergent activity, but cleaning beforehand recommended for heavily soiled surfaces	Variable detergent activity, requires some cleaning beforehand	No detergent activity, always requires extensive cleaning beforehand	No detergent activity, always requires extensive cleaning beforehand
Stability when diluted	90 days	7 days	Varies	24 hours	24 hours
Recommended contact time	10 minutes for 1:32 dilution 5 minutes for 1:16 dilution	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
Rinse required?*	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Regular household bleach is most commonly 5.25%, however always check the concentration of the bleach product you are using and prepare dilutions accordingly, use our interactive [Bleach Dilution Calculator](#) for finding the proper bleach to water ratio for disinfecting.

** To remove any residual disinfectant, rinsing housing areas and food/water dishes is always recommended regardless of which product is used.



9. Vet Care. Parvovirus can become extremely expensive to treat if not caught in time. However, it is also extremely expensive to test for and therefore testing all new intakes or questionable cases is not feasible. Vet testing and care should be sought within twenty-four (24) hours if a dog(s) meets the below criteria.

- a. Blood in feces more than twenty-four (24) hours.
- b. Abrupt loss of energy, appetite, or water intake for more than twenty-four (24) hours.
- c. Direct contact with a dog whom has tested positive for parvovirus.

10. Capacity. Effective with this policy, the shelter shall not exceed capacity as to not be able to follow this policy. Meaning, no new intakes if this protocol for quarantine cannot be followed.

11. Fostering. Fostering of puppy litters shall be the first priority measure to preventing parvovirus. Fosters with dogs under two (2) years of age are not authorized to foster puppies. No foster may have more than one litter of puppies. Puppies that enter foster will continue to foster until such time they have had at least three shots in the series. The foster coordinator shall make arrangements to conduct vaccines at the foster's residence, instead of the puppies being brought to the shelter.

12. Alterations to Policy. Alterations to this policy may be made by the Operations Manager, Vice President, or President but must be approved by the President prior to implementation.

13. Training. Staff and volunteers must be trained on this policy before being allowed to conduct any cleaning, vaccinations of, or entering the isolation areas. Untrained personal can conduct daily business as required with exception of the isolation area.

Aaron R. Hepps
President & Executive Director