

Parvovirus

General information

- Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious gastrointestinal (GI) disease.
- Puppies less than 6 months old and unvaccinated dogs are most at risk to contract a serious case of the disease, which can be fatal.

Transmission

- Parvovirus is spread primarily through exposure to infected feces. It's best not to let your dog or puppy sniff another dogs' waste. Parvo can also be spread by humans on items such as shoes.
- Parvo cannot be killed with regular household cleaners, and can persist in the environment for months to years if not killed with bleach.
- You can clean items you suspect to be infected with a solution of one part household bleach to 30 parts water.
- There is no way to fully decontaminate yards.
- Dogs infected with parvovirus should be isolated from other dogs and given medical attention by a veterinarian.

Symptoms

- Vomiting
- Lack of appetite
- Severe and/or bloody diarrhea
- Dehydration

If your puppy or dogs exhibit any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian **immediately**.

Prevention

- Immunize your puppy or dog according to your veterinarian's advice.
- Vaccinations should begin at 6-8 weeks of age with follow up booster shots. Puppies should receive a series of booster vaccines between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks.
- A single vaccine is NOT adequate protection for a puppy.
- Adult dogs should receive a booster shot regularly at your veterinarian's direction.
- Until your puppy receives its complete series of shots, or if your adult dog is not current on its boosters, you should be cautious when socializing your pet at kennels, pet shops, parks, obedience classes, daycare, and the groomers.



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