

PARVOVIRUS

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Symptoms

Parvovirus is a viral infection that attacks the epithelium or inner lining of the small intestine leading to severe inflammation, anorexia, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, shock, and death.

Prevention

This is a preventable disease!!! Vaccinations **significantly** reduce the risk of parvovirus infection! Dogs that do get the virus after being vaccinated have much less severe symptoms and have a higher rate of survival!

Vaccines

Vaccinations should be started by eight weeks of age and given every four weeks until sixteen weeks of age.

Vaccines should come from a reliable source, meaning your veterinarian.

Feed store vaccines are NOT reliable!



Treatment

Dogs with this disease require intensive veterinary management. In most cases hospitalization is essential to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. Intravenous fluids and medications to control vomiting and diarrhea are often required. More severe cases may require plasma transfusions and other intensive care. This disease can be fatal. Puppies can go from being bright and alert to lifeless in a matter of hours.





Tips to Prevent Parvo in Your Puppy

- Make sure your puppy is properly vaccinated
- Limit your puppies exposure to unvaccinated dogs
- Avoid places where your puppy could be exposed to the virus
- Do not visit dog parks or pet stores with your puppy
- Carry your puppy into and out of the veterinary clinic and while waiting in the lobby
- Do not get a new puppy if you have had a Parvo positive puppy in the last 6 months to 1 year
- If your puppy starts vomiting and/or having diarrhea, visit your veterinarian immediately

Sanitation

Parvovirus is an extremely hardy virus that resists most household cleaners and survives on the premises for 6 months to a year. The most effective disinfectant is household bleach in a 1:32 dilution. The bleach must be left on the contaminated surface for 20 minutes before being rinsed. If you are bringing a puppy into your home you will want to thoroughly clean and disinfect the area, particularly if you have had a dog with parvovirus in the past. It is very important to isolate young puppies as much as possible from other dogs and from potential sources of infection until they complete the parvo vaccination series at 16 weeks of age. This includes dog parks, pet stores, and visiting other homes.

