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The virus in the environment.

Because the canine parvovirus is not enveloped in fat the way the distemper virus is, canine parvovirus is especially hardy in the environment and almost impossible to disinfect away.

It is readily carried on our shoes or clothing to new areas also spread by birds rodents that came in contact with the virus on the ground (which accounts for its rapid worldwide spread).

This virus is able to over winter freezing temperatures in the ground outdoors and thrive in wet and hot climates ... then to know **is that normal household disinfectants are not capable of killing it indoors or in a kennel situation.**

Disinfection plays a major roll is preventing parvo.

Given that this is such a tough virus to destroy, many people want to know exactly what they can and must do to **disinfect** an area that has contained an infected dog or how long they must wait before safely introducing a new puppy or dog to a previously contaminated area.

Likelihood that all environment areas are contaminated.

Infected dogs shed virus (in their stool and other bodily fluids) especially during vomiting ... then in gigantic amounts during the 2 weeks following exposure.

Because such enormous amounts of virus are shed, there is a **HUGE** potential for environmental contamination when an infected dog has been there – outside in the street and in the parks, in your neighbours premises, in the farmers co – op and even in the vets office and surgery.

It is important to realize that *because the canine parvovirus is so hardy in the environment, it is considered "ubiquitous."*

This means that NO ENVIRONMENT is free from this virus unless it is regularly disinfected with specific disinfectants.

A parvoviral infection can be picked up **ANYWHERE** (in your vehicle and in the airfreight because human traffic walking it in from out there) though it is easier to pick up an infection in an area where an infected dog has been present simply because of the larger amounts of virus present in a contaminated area.

Whether an individual dog gets infected or not depends on the number of viral particles the dog experiences - what kind of immune experience the dog has had with the virus before vaccinated - previously infected - how much past exposure - and how strong the individual dog is (stress factors, diet, immune system etc.)

Typical /average infectious dose for an unvaccinated dog is 1000 viral particles.

For some dogs far less is needed – a titter test can and will determine the level of immunity (ask your vet).

For other dogs, far more is needed.

An infected dog sheds 35 million viral particles (35,000 TIMES the typical infectious dose) **per OUNCE of stool.**

Environmental contamination the biggest danger.

Indoor decontamination:

Indoors, virus loses its infectivity within one month; therefore, it should be safe to introduce a new puppy indoors one month after the active infection has ended and with vigorous disinfecting procedures.

Outdoor decontamination:

Freezing is completely protective to this virus.

If the outdoors is contaminated and is frozen, one must wait for it to thaw out before disinfection procedures and then possibly safely introducing a new puppy.

Shaded areas should be considered contaminated for seven months. Areas with good sunlight exposure should be considered contaminated for five months.

Of course, the above presupposes that no decontamination steps (other than waiting) have been taken.

In most households, owners want to know how to disinfect their homes to create a safer environment for the other dogs there or to create a safe environment for a new or replacement puppy.

About disinfection:

Despite the introduction of new disinfectant cleaners (F10 today is also a preferred disinfectant) with all sorts of claims, **parvovirus remains virtually impossible to completely remove from an environment.**

The goal of decontamination is to reduce the number of viral particles to an acceptable level.

The best & most effective disinfectant against viruses (including parvoviruses) is **ordinary bleach or swimming pool chlorite.**

One part bleach is mixed with 10 parts water – one coffee cup of chlorite in 5 l water - and is applied to scrubbing eating and drinking utensils, floors, walls, fences ... all possible surfaces, toys, bedding, and anything possible contaminated that is colour fast or for which colour changes are not important.

At least 10 minutes of contact time with the bleach / chlorite solution is needed to kill the virus – this to be followed up for 3 days in succession.

Steam cleaning is also able to kill the virus but not possible in the dog yard.

Disinfection becomes problematic for non-bleachable surfaces such as carpet or lawn.

Outdoors, if good drainage is available, **thorough watering down of the area may dilute any virus present.**

Since carpet is indoors, it may be best to simply wait a good month or so for the virus to die off before allowing any puppy's access to the area.