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What is parvoviruses?

You can read more about parvovirus in dogs [here](#).

Parvovirus is another contagious viral illness that is especially dangerous for puppies.

The symptoms of parvovirus include vomiting, decreased appetite, bloody diarrhoea and lethargy.

Treatment requires lots of fluids and antibiotics.

Parvovirus kills about eighty percent of the dogs that become infected with this disease, but it is preventable through vaccination.

PARVOVIRUS

A DEADLY VIRUS

How did my dog get Parvovirus?



Unvaccinated dogs poop out millions of virus particles in each bowel movement.



Virus particles are **very stable** in the soil – they resist heat and cold.



Virus particles present in soil can stay there for **years**.



Unvaccinated dogs who walk on the contaminated soil, lick their feet afterwards and ingest the virus.

Symptoms

- Vomiting (watery, foamy, milky or slimy)
- Diarrhea (often bloody, foul smelling)
- Appetite loss
- Listless or depressed attitude
- Often have a dull, glassy-eyed stare

If you notice any of these signs, seek medical attention **immediately**.

Symptoms come on so quickly that many owners think their puppy has been poisoned.

Prevention

Don't wait until it is too late – even if your dog does not leave your yard.

- This virus can be picked up on your shoes and walked into your yard where it can live for years in the soil
- Puppies and young adults are at a higher risk – you **MUST** vaccinate your puppy before exposing them to any outside areas
- Puppies need a series of vaccinations to develop immunity
- Adult dogs need yearly vaccinations to maintain immunity

For more information, please contact us:

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ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
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This disease affects dogs at all ages but common in puppies and is deadly.

It can be spread from one dog to the other through contaminated faeces.

Parvo can also be carried on furs and paws which can lead to the dog contaminating surfaces in which it lives.

It can also be in the ground where adult dogs defecate.

Prevent the disease by administering the inoculations against the virus that are needed for puppies - speak to your veterinary.

Symptoms are diarrhoea, lack of appetite, bloody diarrhoea, vomiting, weight loss and lack of energy.

Parvoviruses are a large group; almost every mammal species (including humans) seems to have its own parvovirus.

Fortunately, each virus is specific for which animal species it can infect (i.e. the pig parvovirus will not infect dogs or people; the canine parvovirus will not infect pigs humans and cats.)

The canine parvovirus will affect most members of the dog family (wolves, coyotes, foxes etc.)

Parvoviruses are smaller than most viruses and consist of a protein coat (a "capsid") and a single strand of DNA inside.

It is hard to believe that such a simply constructed organism could be so deadly;

however, this virus has proved especially effective at infecting rapidly dividing host cells such as intestinal cells, bone marrow cells, cells of the lymph system, and foetal cells.

Parvoviruses **are not enveloped in fat** the way many other viruses are.

This makes parvoviruses especially hardy in the environment and difficult if not impossible to disinfect away.

While the parvoviruses of other species have been well known for decades, the canine parvovirus is a relative newcomer.

The original canine parvovirus discovered in 1967 and was called "CPV-1" or "the minute virus of canines," and did not represent much of a medical threat **except to new-born and young puppies.**

Puppies +- 3 – 8 weeks old **and up to 12 weeks** suffer the most severe and dangerous symptoms of the parvo virus.

The puppies can often die within two days of the first symptoms. A puppy may show even more severe symptoms if it is already suffering from a secondary bacterial infection or parasites.

By 1978, a new variant, "CPV-2" revealed itself.

This newer version seems to represent a mutation from the feline parvovirus (which is more commonly known as the "[feline distemper virus](#)")

Though there is some controversy regarding what the parent parvovirus actually was.

Because this virus was (and is) shed in gigantic numbers by infected animals and because this virus is especially hardy in the environment, worldwide distribution of the virus rapidly occurred.

At this time, the virus is considered to be "ubiquitous," meaning that it is present in **EVERY ENVIRONMENT** unless regular vigorous specific disinfection is applied.

Attempting to shield a puppy from exposure is completely futile.

In **1978**, no dog had any sort of immunity against this virus.

There was no resistance and the epidemic that resulted was disastrous.

To make matters worse, a second mutation creating CPV-2a had occurred by 1979, which seemed to be even more aggressive.

Vaccine was at a premium and many veterinarians had to make do with feline distemper vaccine

as it was the closest related vaccine available while the manufacturers struggled to supply with true parvo vaccines for dogs.

Many years have passed since then.

The most common form of the virus today is called **CPV-2b**.

Virtually **all dogs can be considered to have been exposed to it at least to some extent** which means that most adult dogs, even those inadequately vaccinated, can be considered to have at least **some build up immunity**.

It is also worth mentioning **today** the new particularly virulent strain of parvovirus: **CPV-2c**, **which is rapidly becoming the second most common form of canine parvovirus.**

CPV-2c was discovered in the year **2000** and is able to also infect cats.

Cats vaccinated against feline distemper can be considered protected.

Currently available vaccines cover all variants of canine including CPV-2c as do all the commercially available diagnostic test kits.

Parvoviral infection **has become a disease almost exclusively of puppies and adolescent dogs.**

Parvoviral infection must be considered as a possible diagnosis in any young dog with vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

With proper hospitalization, survival rates can approach 80%.

To treat parvo is very costly and there is no guarantees.

PARVO-VIRUS

This is a serious, highly contagious viral disease of unvaccinated puppies, usually under a year of age.

Please be aware that this is highly contagious and can be carried on people, vehicle, clothes, etc. The virus remains in the household for up to 6 months to a year. Incubation period for this virus: 2-5 days

SYMPTOMS:

- Fever
- Extremely depressed
- Vomiting (sometimes bloody)
- Diarrhoea (sometimes bloody)
- Dehydration (sunken, glassy eyes)
- Anaemic (as a result of blood loss)
- Shock

TREATMENT:

- Antibiotics
- Anti-inflammatories
- Anti-emetics (to prevent vomiting)
- Keeping the patient hydrated with electrolytes and being force fed.
- Hot water bottle wrapped in a blanket and put by the patients abdomen
- Lots of love and extra TLC



Please ensure that **ALL** your pet's vaccinations are up to date.

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Still, there are many myths and misunderstandings about this virus, how it is spread, **and how to prevent it.**

For more specific information about Canine Parvovirus-2c:

www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Canine-Parvovirus-FAQs.aspx