

# *Info shared by Pitbull SA.*

*Manjaro APBT kennel.*

*South Africa.*

*My Website [www.pitbullsa.co.za](http://www.pitbullsa.co.za)*

*My E mail "[manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za](mailto:manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za)"*

*My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"*

*My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"*

*My mobile +27827838280.*

*Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.*

## *Vaccine, symptoms, and treatment.*

*By CJ Puotinen - Share*

When parvo strikes, it moves fast.

Infected dogs may appear to be in perfect health one day and violently ill the next.

Emergency veterinary care for parvo **is very expensive**, and unless dogs are diagnosed and treated **early, many die** from this serious disease.

Looking at a number of parvovirus prevention and treatment approaches taken by veterinarians and dog guardians today - how parvo is spread among dogs - why it's so dangerous - and the parvo symptoms to watch out for.

**PARVO MYTH 1: Adult dogs don't get parvo.**

**TRUTH: It's true that the likelihood of a serious parvo infection decreases as dogs age, and that most victims are puppies.**

**But adult dogs can become seriously ill or die from parvo.**

**PARVO MYTH 2: I can protect my dogs from exposure to parvo by maintaining a clean environment and restricting their contact with other dogs.**

**PARVO MYTH: The virus is everywhere, and it's impossible to prevent parvo exposure.**

**PARVO MYTH 3: My dog is strong and healthy. His immune system will prevent him from getting sick.**

**TRUTH: Under the right conditions, any dog can be vulnerable to canine parvovirus disease.**

**PARVO MYTH 4: Vaccinations will protect my puppy.**

**TRUTH: Vaccinated puppies can also get parvo under certain circumstances.**

Reactions to parvovirus vary widely – both among dogs and their human caretakers. In a world in which parvovirus is ubiquitous it is literally everywhere except environments that have been sterilized and kept sterilized and tested to be sterilized – parvo kills some dogs and leaves others unscathed.

And in the debate about vaccination against this disease, some people vaccinate their dogs early and often, while others refuse to vaccinate against parvo at all.

One good reason to avoid taking your puppy to heavily trafficked public parks - at least until you have reason to believe his antibody levels are at protective levels - is the pervasiveness of parvovirus.

But we won't tell you which approach you should take with your dog. That, like all health-related issues, is a personal decision that must be made after you learn as much as possible about the risks and benefits of the various approaches.

## **Why is parvovirus so dangerous?**

Parvoviruses infect birds and mammals (including humans).

One good reason to avoid taking your puppy to heavily trafficked public parks - at least until you have reason to believe his antibodies are at protective levels - is the pervasiveness of parvovirus.

The smallest and simplest of the microscopic infectious agents called viruses, which cause disease by replicating within living cells, parvovirus consists of a single strand of DNA enclosed in a microscopic capsid, or protein coat.

This protein coat, which differs from the envelope of fat that encases other viruses, helps the parvovirus survive and adapt.

Infection takes place when a susceptible host inhales or ingests the virus, which attacks the first rapidly dividing group of cells it encounters.

Typically, these cells are in the lymph nodes of the throat.

Soon the virus spills into the bloodstream, through which it travels to bone marrow and intestinal cells.

The incubation period between exposure and the manifestation of symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea is usually three to seven days.

When it attacks bone marrow, parvo damages the immune system and destroys white blood cells.

More commonly, it attacks the intestines, causing copious diarrhea and debilitating nausea, which further weakens the dog's system.

Dogs who die of parvo typically do so because fluid loss and dehydration lead to shock, and/or because intestinal bacteria invade the rest of the body and release septic toxins.

Young puppies and adolescent dogs whose maternal antibodies no longer protect them but whose immune systems have not yet matured are at greatest risk of contracting parvo.

Most parvo victims are less than one year old, but the disease can and does occasionally strike adults, too.

### **How parvo spreads to dogs.**

Veterinary experts agree that virtually all of the world's dogs have been exposed to canine parvovirus.

The virus begins to "shed," or be excreted by a dog, three to four days following his exposure to the virus, often before clinical signs of the infection have appeared.

The virus is also shed in huge amounts from infected dogs in their feces for 7-10 days; a single ounce of fecal matter from a parvo-infected dog contains 35,000,000 units of the virus, and only 1,000 are needed to cause infection.

In addition, the virus can be carried on shoes, tires, people, animals (including insects and rodents), and many mobile surfaces, including wind and water.

Because it is difficult to remove from the environment and because infected dogs shed the virus in such profusion, parvo has spread not only to every dog show, veterinary clinic, grooming salon, and obedience school, but every street, park, house, school, shopping mall, airplane, bus, and office in the world.

While a dog that is diagnosed with parvo will be quickly isolated by his veterinarian and his recent environment will be cleaned & disinfected, some infected dogs have such minor symptoms that no one realizes they are ill.

Infected dogs, with or without symptoms, shed the virus for about two weeks.

If conditions are right, the virus can survive for up to six months.

### **Parvovirus symptoms to watch for.**

Here are the signs of parvo you should not ignore if you suspect your dog has been exposed.

It is important to remember that most parvovirus deaths occur within 48 and 72 hours following a dog showing clinical signs.

- **Sudden inappetance (dog won't eat)**

- **Vomiting**

- **Extreme lethargy or depression**
- **Diarrhea (severe and/or containing blood)**
- **Dehydration**
- **A bloated, tender, or seemingly painful abdomen**
- **Rapid heartbeat**
- **Red gums and eyeballs**
- **Low body temperature (hypothermia)**

Most veterinarians treat parvovirus with intravenous fluids and antibiotics.

In addition, treatment may include balancing the blood sugar, intravenous electrolytes, intravenous nourishment, and an antiemetic injection to reduce nausea and vomiting.

Canine parvovirus medical treatment – very costly.

# 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.

For more information, and ways to help, please contact us:

EMAIL: [admin@awscape.org.za](mailto:admin@awscape.org.za)

CALL: 021 692 2626 | 082 601 1761



**Now know this** > None of these treatments “cure” the disease or kill the virus; they are supportive therapies that only help stabilize the dog long enough for the dogs own immune system to begin counteracting the virus.

Every day that goes by allows the dog to produce more antibodies, which bind with and inactivate the virus.

Survival becomes a race between the damaged immune system, which is trying to recover and respond, and potentially fatal fluid loss and bacterial invasion.

Puppies and very small dogs are at greatest risk because they have the smallest body mass and can least afford to lose vital fluids.

Fluids and electrolyte balance are the most important aspects of parvo treatment - intravenous fluids make the most difference.

While antibiotics have no effect on viruses, they are considered an important aspect of treatment, especially for puppies.

The parvovirus causes the gastrointestinal mucosa, which usually serves as a protective barrier to infection, to slough away, leaving the puppy vulnerable to bacterial infections.

Antibiotics protect the puppy from these infection until their body's own system of protection recovers.

### **Parvovirus treatment costs for dogs.**

Many dogs diagnosed with parvovirus receive the fate of “economic euthanasia” because their guardians cannot afford treatment.

Standard parvovirus treatment necessitates round-the-clock veterinary attention, which means hospitalization, which means a **gigantic medical bill.**

Parvovirus treatment for a single puppy typically starts at R 4000.00 and can reach over R10,000.

Anyone without significant financial means is faced with a horrifying choice: owe money they cannot pay back, or euthanize their sick dog.

Without intensive care, an already parvo-infected dog's chance of survival **is slim to none**.

There is, thankfully, one alternative to hospitalizing a dog for parvo that can cut the cost of treatment by over half the price.

See [New Home Treatment for Parvo May Prevent 'Economic Euthanasia'](#)

### **Canine parvovirus recovery rates.**

It is possible today that an estimated 80 percent of parvo-infected dogs treated at veterinary clinics recover.

Success rate depends on early diagnosis.

A rectal parvo swap test will show results within 10 minutes.

### **Parvovirus vaccines: Imperfect protection.**

Properly administered, vaccines protect most puppies and dogs from parvovirus.

But there are many cases of vaccinated canines contracting the disease.

A letter from puppy owner whose nine-month-old puppy had contracted (and, happily, recovered from) parvovirus.

She was perplexed as to how her properly vaccinated puppy could have become infected, especially since she also owned a brother from the same litter who did not become sick, even though both pups had received the same vaccinations and had been exposed to the same things and places!

The experience of the letter writer's next-door neighbor added to the mystery.

After hearing about the puppy with parvo, the neighbor took her six-month-old, vaccinated puppy to the veterinarian for titer tests, to make sure this puppy was protected.

The test indicated that the puppy had no immunity to parvovirus, so she had the pup revaccinated immediately.

For explanations for all these puzzling events, we turned to Jean Dodds. Dr. Dodds offered numerous explanations as to why, sometimes, the parvovirus vaccine fails to work as intended. First, she made clear, **no vaccine produces 100 percent protection 100 percent of the time.**

**“Vaccination is not a sure thing.**

It certainly improves the odds that an animal will be protected from disease, but it does not guarantee this.

There is no way, even with the best vaccines, to be sure that any given individual’s immune system will respond in the desired way to protect that animal.”

Not all dogs have perfectly functioning immune responses, and, similarly, not all vaccines function perfectly, either.

“There will always be an occasional case of a ‘vaccine break,’ which is what we call it when a vaccine fails to protect an individual against an infectious disease challenge.

However, when a break occurs, if the animal has been appropriately vaccinated, it will usually experience only a mild form of the disease –it is then speculated that this is the most probable explanation for what happened with the infected puppy mentioned above.

While there are some rare exceptions, where an appropriately vaccinated animal nonetheless experiences a lethal form of the disease, it is far more typical that such an animal will experience only a mild form of the disease and should recover quickly.

However, the most common reason for vaccine failures in puppies is maternal antibody interference- if a puppy receives a particularly high level of antibodies (passive immunity) from his mother’s colostrum (and to a lesser extent, in utero), these maternal antibodies may cause any vaccine antigens that are administered to be neutralized.



Dog owners are cautioned to make sure they order and receive results for a "parvovirus vaccine titer" test, such as the one above, when the goal is to determine whether a dog has effective protection from parvovirus.

**Parvovirus vaccine titers: Not always helpful.**

Regarding the neighbor's vaccinated puppy, whose antibody titers showed no antibody protection for parvo it is possible that the chances are very good that the puppy actually did have adequate protection from parvovirus, despite the misleading titer test results.

"There are two types of titer tests commonly offered by most veterinary medical laboratories.

One type is intended to detect whether or not a dog has the disease (a viral infection);

The other type of titer test checks the level of immunity the dog received from vaccination.

In the latter case (a vaccine titer test), antibody levels are expected to be several titer dilutions lower than those conveyed by active viral infection.

When a veterinarian requests an immunity or antibody level measurement for parvovirus or other disease, the laboratory typically assumes that disease diagnosis, rather than vaccine immunity, is to be performed.

When the lab technicians do a test to see whether the dog has parvovirus, they start with a much greater dilution in the test system than is normally used for the detection of vaccine titers.

They do this to conserve reagent and reduce cost of testing.

But because vaccine titers are lower than disease titers, they won't be detected until the test reagent dilution is set lower.

Put in a different way: If they utilize disease exposure methodology, when what is really wanted is a test to assess the adequacy of vaccination, the results will be negative nearly every time.

While this scenario sounds like an obvious oversight it has been seen numerous of times.

“Very often it’s a case where the veterinarian looked at the lab catalog and selected the test called ‘Parvovirus Antibody’ rather than the intended one, which would be ‘Parvovirus Vaccine Antibody’ or ‘Parvovirus Vaccine Titer.’

Meanwhile, the dog has been vaccinated repeatedly and unnecessarily, and when we finally get the correct measurement, we find that the animal actually had good immunity all along.”

### **Not necessarily parvo.**

Back to the puppy who was vaccinated but was stricken with parvo anyway: A final explanation is that his illness might have been incorrectly diagnosed. Veterinarians diagnose parvo by its symptoms – fever, depression, diarrhea, vomiting – and by checking the dog’s stool for presence of parvovirus or serum antibody level.

But other gastrointestinal diseases can produce symptoms that closely resemble those of parvo.

And even the presence of low levels of parvovirus in the stool doesn’t necessarily mean that parvo is causing the dog’s symptoms.

“Dogs who are vaccinated and fully protected against parvovirus may still shed the virus in their stool if they are exposed to the disease agent. “Unless the stool sample revealed a moderate to heavy parvovirus infection, it more than possible that the dog’s symptoms are caused by something else, or a combination of parvovirus exposure and another infectious agent.

For example, the puppy could have been exposed to both parvovirus and corona virus, and then suffered diarrhea and other symptoms as a result of the corona virus alone, because he was adequately protected by vaccination against parvovirus.”

## **Parvo protection for unvaccinated dogs.**

Homeopathic nosode treatment.

Can a superior diet protect unvaccinated dogs against parvo?

When parvovirus first infected the world's dogs, thousands credited Juliette de Bairacli Levy's *Herbal Handbook for the Dog and Cat* and its Natural Rearing philosophy for saving their dogs' lives. Levy was the first to advocate a well-balanced raw, natural diet for pets. Read "[A History of Holistic Dog Care](#)," (*WDJ*, July 2006) to learn about Levy's

## **Natural rearing diet method.**

Marina Zacharias raised four Basset Hound pups on the Natural Rearing diet.

When they were six months old, they played with a puppy the day before it was diagnosed with parvo.

"For 10 days after exposure, I gave them one of Juliette's disinfecting herbal formulas plus homeopathic remedies to help boost their immune function," she says.

"On the tenth day, one of my pups started to show symptoms so I treated it with castor oil to help sweep away the virus as Juliette describes in her book, and I continued with homeopathics.

Within two hours this pup was completely back to normal. The other three never showed symptoms and remained healthy."

Zacharias has received similar reports from numerous clients whose raw-fed, unvaccinated puppies were exposed to parvo.

Homeopathic nosodes, which are highly diluted remedies made from the disease material of infected animals, have become popular alternatives to conventional vaccines.

*But many veterinary homeopaths believe their use as surrogate vaccines is inappropriate.*

One is Maryland veterinarian Christina Chambreau, who explains, "The best time to use a homeopathic nosode is after exposure."

If you know your dog has been exposed to parvo, you would give a single dose of a 200C-strength homeopathic parvo nosode. This treatment can be given any time after exposure and before the animal gets really sick, such as when it shows minor symptoms like throwing up once or having soft stools."

*Dr. Chambreau* says she is aware of about 50 cases in which unvaccinated or minimally vaccinated litters of puppies, kennels of dogs, or individual dogs were exposed to parvo, and after a single treatment with the parvovirus nosode, either did not get the disease at all or had only minor symptoms.

*Dr. Chambreau* also recommends feeding the best possible diet and boosting the dog's immune system with supplements such as **vitamin C and infection-fighting herbs like echinacea**.

It is not uncommon, she says, for holistically raised, unvaccinated puppies to have parvo without being diagnosed.

"Many of my clients choose not to vaccinate at all," *Dr. Chambreau* says, "and it's not uncommon for their puppies to get sick with a mild case of diarrhea or vomiting that we treat homeopathically or with other holistic therapies.

These puppies recover quickly, and what's interesting is that later, when they're directly exposed to parvo, they don't catch it.

That minor bout of diarrhea was probably parvo.

It's possible to raise puppies **so that they get a natural exposure rather than a vaccine exposure to parvo, and that builds a better immunity than the vaccine in most animals.**"

"To treat this new illness," she says, "I made an **autoisode**.

An autoisode is a homeopathic remedy made from the secretions, excretions (saliva, urine, or feces), blood, and hair of the infected animal, for these substances contain the infective agent.

I used them to make a sterile intravenous injection and gave this to all of the animals.

I didn't lose a single patient."

**The 30C potency parvovirus autoisode** that she made during the epidemic has become the basis of her homeopathic parvo prevention, and she is not aware of any animals, either her own or her clients', breaking with parvo.

"On the contrary," she says, "it has proven to be protective for unrelated infections by building and strengthening the dog's own immune system to ward off other infective agents.

When I gave it to a Connecticut kennel of Boston Terrier show dogs, they were the only dogs that did not contract kennel cough during an outbreak at a dog show in Massachusetts."