

# *Info shared by Pitbull SA.*

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## *Caring for the treated puppy at home.*

*The Parvo puppy goes home.*

Hopefully at this point, the hospitalized puppy is eating, bright, playful and ready to go home.

Be prepared to make some special arrangements as there will likely be medication or special diet arrangement as advised by the vet. Consider making a list of questions for your veterinarian.

### **What you need you know.**

#### **Medications.**

Your puppy will be finishing up a course of antibiotics and may also be on some medication for nausea or diarrhoea and digestive system probiotics.

It is important that you give your puppy the medication prescribed for the full amount of time it has prescribed.

**Diet.**

Your puppy is recovering from some extensive damage to his/her intestinal tract.

It is typical for stool to be a little loose at first or for no stool to be produced for a few days as the tract recovers. The stool should gradually firm up over the first 3-5 days at home and your puppy should be active and of normal attitude.

If the diarrhoea persists, if vomiting occurs or if your puppy seems depressed, please contact your vet at once for instructions.

Your puppy may be ravenously hungry after going so long without food.

Do not allow the puppy to gorge as this can result in vomiting or diarrhoea.

Feed smaller meals separated by at least an hour or two.

Do not feed table scraps. Stick to the diet recommended by your veterinarian.

A prescription diet or a home cooked diet may have been recommended (such as boiled chicken and white rice, or fat free cottage cheese and pasta).

It is important for your puppy's food to be easily digestible so stick to the protocol your veterinarian has recommended.

**Exercise.**

Your puppy should be considered "contagious" to other puppies for a good month so it is important to "play it safe" by restricting trips to the park, obedience school or other neighbourhood areas.

The virus is no longer shedding directly in the puppy's stool; the pup is contagious because of the high amounts of virus still in the puppy's fur from the time of active infection.

A bath goes far in reducing potential for contagion.

If your puppy is less than 16 weeks of age, they should not be allowed in public areas until the vaccination series is fully completed.

### **Other dogs and pets.**

Humans are not susceptible to canine parvovirus infection though some strains can be contagious to cats.

Adult dogs that have been vaccinated are not susceptible, either.

All puppies, however, are at risk.

If your sick puppy was indoors only, wait at least one month before any new puppies come to your home.

If your sick puppy was outdoors, remember that it can take 7 months before the virus is eliminated from soil.

(Freezing will preserve the virus so that any time, during which the ground is frozen, that time does not count in this 7 month period.)

### **Bathing.**

Your puppy may be bathed any time as long as you do not allow them to get cold or chilled after the bath.

Bathing will reduce the amount of virus left on the puppy's fur and will help reduce contagion – the use of F 10 shampoo is recommended.

### **Resuming vaccines.**

Follow your veterinarian's recommendations. Your puppy cannot be re-infected with this virus for at least 3 years

(and probably is protected for life simply by virtue of this infection) but there are other viruses that your puppy should be protected against.

Your veterinarian will give you a vaccination schedule to adhere to for the future.

There should be no permanent ramifications due to this infection.

The recovered puppy should lead a normal life once the recovery period is completed (1-2 weeks).