

Canine Parvovirus

Canine Parvovirus, commonly known as parvo, is an extremely contagious intestinal disease that affects dogs. The virus destroys the intestinal lining of the dog, making it difficult to absorb nutrients from food. Puppies are most likely to get the virus, but older, unvaccinated dogs can also become infected. Dogs of any age, breed, or sex can be infected.



Symptoms of parvovirus include vomiting, diarrhea (which may be bloody), loss of energy, depression, dehydration, and sometimes a high temperature. Not all of these symptoms may show up in the dog. Symptoms can usually be seen three to 12 days after the dog has been exposed to the disease. Dogs that show symptoms can die within 24 to 72 hours if not treated. If your dog shows **ANY** of these symptoms, take them to the Veterinarian right away – **do not wait!** Without intense medical care and treatment, the dog will more than likely not survive.

Parvovirus is very contagious. It is spread through the feces and vomit of infected dogs. People cannot contract parvovirus, however, if you come in contact with a dog that has parvo, you can carry the virus on your shoes, clothing, or skin and give it to a healthy dog. Always use caution when bringing a new dog into an environment that has been exposed to parvo. Contact your local vet for more details.

To prevent your dog from getting parvo, vaccinations must be given. Puppies must be vaccinated at six to eight weeks of age. They are given booster shots every three weeks until they are four months old. Adult dogs that have never been vaccinated need an initial vaccine, followed by a booster vaccine three weeks later. Annual booster shots are recommended for every dog. So keep your dog healthy and safe by making sure they are up to date on their vaccinations!



San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609
www.sbcounty.gov/acc