

# Parvo Virus

Congratulations on your new family member! Your new puppy was either recently exposed to parvovirus or tested positive for parvovirus and has since been treated. Even if your new puppy has recovered from parvovirus, there are some things that you should know about the illness. Puppies and adolescent dogs who are not vaccinated are most commonly affected by this disease. Puppies who are in a shelter environment where there is a large canine population are also more susceptible.

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease that can produce a life-threatening illness. The virus attacks rapidly dividing cells in a dog's body, most severely affecting the intestinal tract. Parvovirus also attacks the white blood cells, reducing immunity to other diseases. Common symptoms of parvovirus are lethargy, severe vomiting, loss of appetite and bloody, foul-smelling diarrhea that can lead to life-threatening dehydration.

If your puppy has recovered from parvovirus, it is important to know that parvovirus can still continue to be shed into the environment via feces and vomit for 2-3 weeks after infection and should be kept separate from unvaccinated dogs during this time. The virus lives for a long time in the environment so the pups shouldn't be taken to places where they might leave parvo in the environment, like dog parks or pet stores, and the owners they should clean up after their pup for those first couple of weeks, with bleach if possible, to get it out of their environment so no future visiting dogs/pups will potentially come into contact. Once puppies have recovered from parvo they should have developed immunity to it, preventing them from contracting it again in the future. Dogs usually suffer no long term damage/effects once they have recovered from parvo.

We have done our absolute best to make sure that your new puppy is healthy and ready to go home with you. This includes providing supportive veterinary care and ensuring your pup has started the distemper vaccination series which protects against parvovirus. Continuing preventative veterinary care, including finishing the distemper (also called 5-in-1) vaccination series and providing booster vaccines throughout the dog's life, will help to ensure your puppy lives a long happy life in its new home! Adults who have received their annual distemper vaccination should be well protected as the parvo vaccine is one of the five included in that shot.

If your dog appears to be lethargic, has diarrhea, stops eating or vomits, please contact CCRC immediately at 248.834.9419 - prior to contacting one of our vets, if at all possible.

If your dog needs to go to the vet, **ONLY** pre-approved visits to **OUR** participating vets will be covered. If you do not get prior approval or choose to take your dog to another vet, CCRC will not be responsible for ANY costs from the visit.