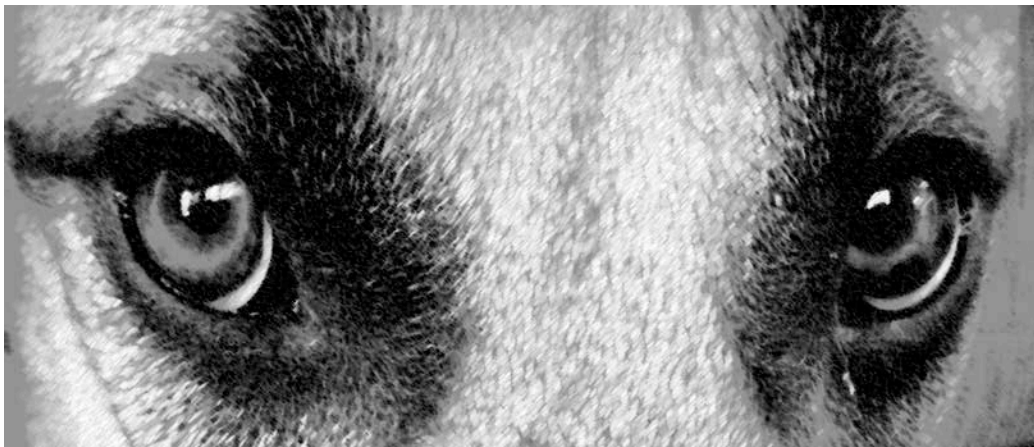


CANINE PARVOVIRUS



What is canine parvovirus?

What is it?

Parvovirus is a deadly disease transmitted between canines through direct contact with their feces or bodily fluids. Though this disease only affects canines it is highly contagious and canines that live indoors or outdoors can be easily infected.

Symptoms

Symptoms include **vomiting, diarrhea**, lack of **energy**, lack of **appetite** and a **decrease** in **water** consumption. If your dog is demonstrating any of these symptoms contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Risk Factors

Puppies with inadequate vaccination history are most at risk, as well as canines with brown or black fur such as Dobermans or Rottweilers. Visit the "**Prevention through Vaccination**" section of this newsletter for more information on proper vaccination protocol.

Prevention through vaccination is the best way to protect your pet from this disease.

Read on to learn more about prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

PREVENTION THROUGH VACCINATION

Diagnosis of Parvovirus

If your dog is demonstrating any of the symptoms listed above it is essential that you visit your veterinarian as soon as possible. Once your pet becomes symptomatic immediate medical attention is required to increase its chance of survival. Your veterinarian will examine your pet, determine if parvovirus is a concern, and run an in hospital test where a positive or negative result will be available within minutes.



Recovery varies with each patient, after a few days of hospitalization your veterinarian will be better able to provide you with a prognosis.

Treatment of Parvovirus

If your dog is diagnosed with parvovirus, many steps will be taken to ensure both patient and clinic safety. Since parvovirus is highly contagious and can survive on virtually any surface, it is important to quarantine your dog from exposing the virus to other patients. Once in the isolation ward, your pet most likely receive the treatments below:

- IV Fluids** to prevent dehydration from the vomiting and diarrhea
- Antibiotics** to prevent infection
- Pain medication** to alleviate the pain associated with the disease process
- Hospitalization** is required for round the clock care and maintenance of your pet

How can this deadly disease be prevented?

A specific vaccination protocol must be followed in order to properly protect your pet from this disease. Follow the guidelines below to make sure your pet is fully protected.

First Vaccine

Your veterinarian will administer the first vaccine at 8-10 weeks of age. It will most likely be in the form of a combination vaccine that protects against several different diseases.

Puppy Series

After receiving the first vaccine your puppy should be vaccinated every three to four weeks until **16 weeks of age**.

Adult Vaccines

During adulthood dogs should be vaccinated yearly until three years of age, and every three years thereafter.

Unvaccinated Adult

If you have an adult dog with no vaccine history, your veterinarian will most likely begin with a series of vaccines three to four weeks apart, and then transition to the adult vaccines guidelines.