

Parvovirus

What is Parvo?

Parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease that destroys the lining of the intestines. It can affect dogs of *any* age, but it is especially severe in dogs less than one year of age and dogs not current on vaccines.

How did my dog get Parvo?

Parvo is very contagious to dogs. Dogs become infected with parvo through contact with the stool of an infected dog or through the environment. Parvo can survive in the environment for many months up to a year. It is resistant to temperature extremes and many disinfectants. Clothing, shoes, insects, birds, and other objects can spread the virus. If you have had a parvo infected dog in your yard, any other dogs brought into the yard should be current on vaccines. Puppies may not be safe until they have received their full series of vaccines. When a puppy becomes infected with the virus it can take seven to ten days for signs of the illness to occur.

Because parvovirus is contagious, sick puppies need to be isolated from all other dogs. A solution of one part bleach to thirty parts water should be used to disinfect clothes, floors, kennels, and anything else that may have been contaminated. When a puppy has recovered from Parvo, a series of vaccines should still be given to ensure immunity. Dogs are considered contagious for up to one week after they have recovered.

Clinical signs of Parvovirus Include:

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| *Depression | *Loss of appetite |
| *Vomiting | *Diarrhea- with or without blood |
| *Dehydration | *Electrolyte imbalances |
| *Secondary bacterial infections | *Death |

How is Parvo diagnosed and treated?

Parvo is diagnosed from clinical signs, fecal testing, and blood samples. Although there are no drugs to kill the virus *early veterinary treatment is essential* for recovery. The treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Hospitalizing the dog is ideal. Intravenous fluids are given to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances; antibiotics are given to treat secondary bacterial infections. Additional medications are given to control vomiting, treat intestinal pain, and provide nutritional support. Other symptomatic care is given depending upon the individual needs of the puppy.

The survival rate with aggressive therapy and hospitalization is about 75%, but it depends on the severity of the illness when treatment is initiated, the level of care, and the puppy's ability to fight the infection and survive. Often the puppy will need to be hospitalized for 2 to 5 days. The survival rate with outpatient home care is much less.

Charging Policy

Price quotes will be printed for you, outlining the *estimated* expense involved in treating your pet's condition. Quotes may vary depending on the progress of the pet. You will be notified of any changes in the care regime. Hospitalized pets require deposits maintaining at least half of the estimated bill. The balance is to be paid when the pet is released to go home. There is no billing. If you have money concerns please discuss these with our staff or doctors *prior to treatment*. The charges on a hospitalized case are generally quoted on a calendar day (not a 24 hour period). Charges begin anew each morning. Daily total charges are based on medications given and not pro-rated on time hospitalized. Out patient treatments require keeping current with the bill.