

FACT SHEET - CANINE PARVOVIRUS INFECTION

What is Parvovirus?

Canine parvovirus (Parvo) is a highly contagious infection that affects all dogs of any age. The virus is very aggressive and has an extremely high mortality rate if left untreated. Parvo attacks the lining of the dog's stomach and also the bone marrow which produces white blood cells. Dogs who have recovered from parvovirus should not be walked in public for several weeks.

How can my dog become infected with Parvo?

The parvovirus is transmitted either by direct contact with an infected dog, or indirectly through faecal matter from an infected dog. Due to the stability of the virus it is easily transmitted via the hair or feet of infected dogs, contaminated shoes, clothes, and other objects. This means that even if your dog never goes to the park or mixes with other dogs, it can be exposed to virus in its own environment. Parvovirus is highly resistant to the effects of heat, detergents and alcohol so it can remain in the environment for up to a year after an infected dog has been there.

What are the symptoms of Parvo?

Dogs will usually become ill or show signs of illness 7-10 days after being infected with Parvo. Not all dogs will show every sign of Parvo, if your dog shows any sign of illness you should contact the vet as soon as possible.

Symptoms of Parvo can include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea, including bloody diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy and depression

How do I protect my dog against Parvo?

Parvo is an easily preventable disease through vaccination. Contact your local vet to check your dog is up to date with its vaccinations or to schedule a vaccination.

Can my dog pass Parvo onto my family or other animals?

There is currently no evidence that Canine Parvovirus can be caught by humans.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on Parvo, contact your local vet:

- Kalgoorlie Veterinary Clinic: (08) 9021 3965
- Kalgoorlie Animal Hospital: (08) 9021 6000
- Murdoch Animal Hospital 24hrs Emergency: 1300 652 494