



**Palm Beach County
Public Safety Department
Animal Care and Control Division
7100 Belvedere Road, WPB, FL 33411
561-233-1200 Main Number**

Parvovirus in Dogs and Puppies Information Sheet

- **Canine Parvovirus** is a highly infectious viral disease that affects young puppies and older adult dogs. Symptoms of Parvovirus are diarrhea (sometimes bloody), vomiting, lethargy, weakness, and fever. Diarrhea can be mild, severe, or fatal. The virus also attacks white blood cells, leaving the infected dog much more susceptible to other bacterial infections.
- Indirect transmission of the disease occurs by environmental contamination with fecal material on the ground or grass, objects such as food or water bowls, or bedding and toys. Transmission may also occur by direct contact between dogs.
- The virus is very contagious and is spread by exposure to feces. Areas where there are large numbers of dogs are more apt to spread the disease.
- Strict sanitation and disinfection is essential.
- The virus remains infectious on the premises for years unless the environment can be adequately disinfected with a household bleach solution.
- All current and future dogs in the household must be vaccinated against Parvovirus before bringing a new pet into the home, especially when adopting from a shelter or rescue.
- Protect your dog by having him vaccinated as recommended by your veterinarian.
- There is some risk that a dog incubating parvovirus will infect other dogs. The new dog and its feces should be kept away from puppies and unvaccinated dogs for two weeks. Dogs that have had at least two recommended vaccines, with the last one at least two weeks prior to exposure to an infected dog are reasonably protected.

- If your puppy or dog develops any clinical signs, contact your veterinarian immediately. Advise the veterinary office that you suspect parvovirus so that they can isolate your dog from others pets.