

Canine Parvovirus, commonly known as parvo, is a highly contagious virus that poses a significant threat to dogs, especially puppies and unvaccinated dogs, but with proper knowledge and preventive measures, we can work together to keep your pet safe.

Canine Parvovirus is a severe, highly infectious disease that targets a dog's gastrointestinal tract, leading to symptoms such as vomiting, severe bloody diarrhea, loss of appetite, and lethargy. The virus can also attack the heart muscle, leading to potentially fatal complications in puppies. Parvo is most commonly spread through direct contact with an infected dog or indirectly by contact with a contaminated environment, person, or object.

Puppies under four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against parvo are at the highest risk. The virus is resilient and can survive in the environment for months, making contamination difficult to control, especially in public areas like parks and kennels. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect your dog from parvo. The Parvo vaccine is in combination with the Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza vaccine. Puppies should receive their first vaccines between 6 to 8 weeks of age, with boosters every 3 to 4 weeks until they are at least 16 weeks old. We highly recommend not socializing your puppy with other dogs until they are fully vaccinated to reduce the risk of exposure. It is critical to continue with regular vaccinations as advised during your pet's life to maintain their immunity.

Early detection can be pivotal in the successful treatment of parvo. Symptoms include: - Severe, bloody diarrhea - Vomiting - Fever - Lethargy - Dehydration - Loss of appetite. If you notice any of these signs in your pet, it's crucial to seek veterinary care immediately.

There is no cure for parvo, so treatment focuses on supporting the dog's body to help it fight off the virus. This usually involves hospitalization, IV fluids, anti-nausea medications, and antibiotics to prevent secondary infections. Early and aggressive treatment can significantly increase the chances of survival.

If you have a dog diagnosed with parvo, it's essential to isolate them from other dogs. Thoroughly clean and disinfect any contaminated surfaces as the virus can remain infectious on surfaces for several months. If you're unsure about how to properly clean or if you have other pets, please contact us for advice. Remember, prevention through vaccination and hygiene is the key to protecting your pet from parvo. We strongly recommend ensuring your pet's vaccinations are up to date. If you have any questions about parvovirus, the vaccination schedule, or if you need to book an appointment, please do not hesitate to reach out.