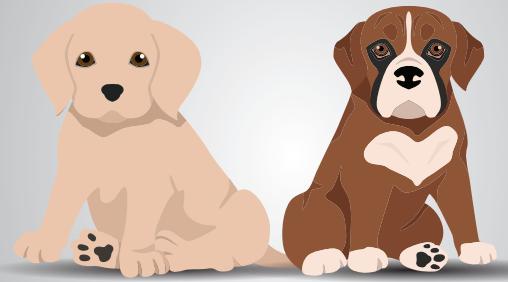


# What You Need to Know About Parvovirus (Parvo)

*Help Us Keep Our Shelters and Community Safe*

Canine Parvovirus is endemic to the DC area, and it is important to protect your pets. Parvo is a highly contagious viral disease that often leads to acute gastrointestinal illness in puppies. The disease most often affects puppies between six and 20 weeks old, but older, unvaccinated animals can also be affected. It is spread through saliva and feces. It is typically seasonal with more cases during the warm months.



## What are the symptoms of canine parvovirus?

- Vomiting
- Fever
- Diarrhea (with or without blood)
- Loss or lack of appetite

## How is canine parvovirus spread?

The virus is typically contracted through direct contact with an infected dog or through sniffing or eating infected feces. Dogs can shed the virus prior to showing signs of illness and for many weeks after the disease has resolved, therefore dogs that appear healthy can transmit Parvovirus. The virus can live on surfaces (i.e. floors, shoes, pants) for months and continue to serve as a source of infection.

## Who does it affect?

- Unvaccinated and under vaccinated dogs
- Puppies are at higher risk than adult dogs
- Canine Parvovirus cannot affect cats or other domestic animals

## How do I protect my dogs?

- Vaccinate puppies to prevent infection.
- Socialize your dogs with other healthy and vaccinated dogs.
- Dogs who are up to date with vaccines are at extremely low risk.
- Recovered dogs can shed the virus for 2 weeks after illness. Keep your dog away from dogs who have been recently infected with parvovirus.

Owner in need of assistance? Contact the Humane Rescue Alliance's pet support team at [petsupport@humanerescuealliance.org](mailto:petsupport@humanerescuealliance.org) or (202) 723-5730, option #4.