

## Canine Parvovirus (CPV)

Canine parvovirus has a special affinity for attacking rapidly reproducing cells- such as those lining the gastrointestinal tract, bone marrow, lymph nodes and the heart. The virus, which is highly contagious, is transmitted from one dog to another via contaminated droplets and feces. It can be carried on the dog's hair and feet, as well as on contaminated cages, shoes and other objects. Dogs of all ages are affected, but the highest mortality occurs among puppies less than five months of age. Two main syndromes recognized:

**Diarrhea Syndrome (Enteritis):** After an incubation period of seven to fourteen days, the first signs are severe depression with loss of appetite, followed by vomiting. The dog appears to be in extreme pain, with a tucked-up abdomen. Within twenty-four hours a fever develops (up to 106 degrees F) and a profuse diarrhea that is frequently bloody. Mouth inflammation (stomatitis) can occur. Almost no other canine disease causes such devastating symptoms.

**Cardiac Syndrome (Myocarditis):** This form of CPV affects the muscle of the heart, especially in puppies less than three months of age. Puppies with myocarditis stop nursing, cry out and gasp for breath. Death can occur suddenly or in a few days. Puppies that recover sometimes develop a chronic form of congestive heart failure that leads to death in weeks or months.

**Treatment:** Success of treatment is variable, depending on the form and severity of CPV infection as well as the age of the dog. Note that in puppies between six and twenty weeks of age there is a one- to four- week interval when they are susceptible to infection despite diligent vaccination. This is because declining maternal antibody levels are no longer protective but still interfere with the 'take' of the vaccine.

Treatment of CPV includes fluid and electrolyte placement, medication to control diarrhea and vomiting and administration of broad spectrum antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections. In all but mild cases, hospitalization for intensive management is essential. Dogs that recover are immune to the disease.

The quarters of an infected dog should be cleaned and thoroughly disinfected. This is an extremely hardy virus that resists most household cleaners. The best disinfectant is Clorox (one part to thirty parts of water).

CPV can be prevented by an appropriate vaccination schedule. Parvovirus vaccinations must be kept current in all dogs.

## Vaccination Schedule

<i>Age of Dog</i>	<i>Vaccine Recommended</i>
At 6 to 8 weeks	Canine distemper-measles-parainfluenza (CPI) Parvovirus
At 8 to 12 weeks	DHLPP (distemper, hepatitis, [CAV-2], Leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus) Corona*
At 16 weeks	Rabies (at 12 weeks) DHLPP +/- Corona*
At 12 months	Rabies
Annual Booster	DHLPP +/- Corona* Rabies (1 or 3 years, depending on Manufacturer's recommendations).

\*Corona vaccination is optional. Give first shot at 12 weeks of age.