

# Parvo Virus

## *Facts You Should Know!*

- 1- Contagious to dogs only! Not to cats or people
- 2- Signs include: Vomiting, fever and bloody diarrhea with a very foul odor.
- 3- The virus sometimes may attack the heart muscle causing myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle). This may occur for up to 3-6 weeks after apparent recovery from the intestinal form of the disease. This “heart” form is always fatal!!
- 4- The younger the dog, the greater the chance it **WILL NOT** recover!
- 5- Dogs that recover from Parvo are weak, making them even more susceptible to other diseases, such as Distemper.
- 6- The virus is transmitted through the feces of an infected dog. It can be carried on a dog’s hair and feet as well as live on contaminated rugs, bedding, shoes and other objects.
- 7- The most effective disinfectant is 4 oz Clorox bleach in 1 gallon of water.
- 8- Dogs that recover from Parvo continue to spread the virus in the feces for a month or longer.
- 9- Dogs remain highly susceptible to Parvo until 2 weeks after the last injection of the immunization series.
- 10- Death from Parvo virus may result from:
  - a. Dehydration;
  - b. Overwhelming bacterial infection from the pet’s lowered resistance;
  - c. Blood loss from internal hemorrhage;
  - d. Heart attack from invasion of the heart muscle by the virus.
- 11- Treatment is aimed at maintaining the normal body composition and preventing secondary bacterial infection. We have **NO CURE** for any animal virus, just as there is no cure for any human virus.
- 12- The body is about 80% water. Life is NOT possible when 12-15% of the normal body fluids are lost. In Parvo virus, the pet becomes “dehydrated” from the vomiting, diarrhea and inability to consume fluids. This is the reason fluid therapy is so important in treating the Parvo virus.