



# Canine Parvovirus (CPV)

## What You Should Know

### Background

Canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract of puppies, dogs, and wild canines (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes). It was first identified in 1978 and is seen worldwide. It can also damage the heart muscle in very young and unborn puppies.

### How is parvovirus spread?

CPV-2 is highly contagious and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces (stool), environments or people. **The virus can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs.** It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. Even trace amounts of feces containing parvovirus may serve as environmental reservoirs of the virus and infect other dogs that come into the infected environment. **CPV-2 is readily transmitted from place to place on the hair or feet of dogs or via contaminated cages, shoes, or other objects.**

### What dogs are at risk?

All dogs are at risk, but puppies less than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine parvovirus are at increased risk of becoming infected and ill.

### What are some facts about parvovirus?

1. Parvovirus is very durable in the environment and can persist for months or years.
2. **ProVetLogic Professional Concentrate and Ready-To-Use for the Home and Business have been proven to kill parvovirus when used as directed.**
3. Parvovirus can spread on hands, feet, clothing, tools, rodents and flies traveling from kennel to kennel. Dogs may carry the virus on their fur and feet even if they themselves do not get ill. The virus enters the dog through the nose or mouth and has an incubation period of 3 days to 2 weeks (usually 5-7 days).
4. Puppies under 6 months old are most likely to get severe disease. Rottweilers, Dobermans, pit bulls and mixes of these breeds are especially vulnerable. Adult dogs may get mild disease that is indistinguishable from diarrhea of any other cause. Affected dogs have mild to severe diarrhea, may be dehydrated and lethargic, have vomiting, or can develop severe to fatal secondary bacterial infections.
5. Vaccination usually prevents disease in adult dogs that have received a vaccine at least 1-2 weeks before exposure, but does not prevent them from carrying virus on fur if exposed. Puppies up to 16 weeks of age may not be protected fully by vaccination.

### How is parvovirus prevented?

Vaccination and good hygiene are critical components of canine parvovirus prevention.

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## How can we limit the spread of canine parvovirus?

1. Vaccination against parvovirus is very effective and is the cornerstone of prevention. All dogs should be vaccinated and puppies over 4-6 weeks of age immediately on intake, and repeat vaccinations in puppies every 2-4 weeks.
2. **Use ProVetLogic Professional concentrate or ready-to-use as directed. This is especially important following a known parvo exposure. For more information on parvo disinfection please see our Educational Series – Volume 1.**
3. Hospital and kennel staff should be thoroughly trained on the recognition of parvovirus. A written plan-of-action should be created for what to do if a parvo case is identified.
4. Ensure availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including gloves, protective jumpsuits, (long sleeves are imperative), and shoe covers.

***Perform routine facility maintenance to minimize cross-contamination and the spread of infection in the event that infection does occur. Implement the following protocol:***

1. Cleaning should be performed on a regular and consistently scheduled basis. Primary HOT ZONE target areas, such as cages, treatment areas, etc. should be cleaned on a daily basis and secondary HOT ZONE target areas, such as walls, transport vehicles, etc. should be cleaned on a weekly basis.
2. All areas of the facility should be cleaned and disinfected routinely (accept carpeted surfaces). This includes, but should not be limited to animal containment areas, treatment areas, animal receiving, lobby and other public areas, including restrooms.
3. Animal transport vehicles, pet carriers, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
4. Cleaning tools, such as floor brooms, broom handles, scrapers, brushes, etc. should be made of a synthetic material. Wood and natural bristles can harbor bacteria and promote cross-contamination.
5. Remove all animals from the area.
6. Remove all solid debris, including feces, food particles, etc. before starting the disinfection process.
7. Rinse surface thoroughly to remove remaining debris.
8. Using ProVetLogic Professional will eliminate the need for a pre-clean solution.
9. Avoid splashing the solution when applying it, as this could spread the virus.
10. Allow the solution to stand for 10 minutes and dry thoroughly before allowing dogs back into the area.



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