

Parvovirus results in severe dehydration and destroys white blood cells. This weakens the immune system and can make it easier for them to catch other infections.

Parvovirus is most common in puppies but it can affect dogs of any age.

The virus is also more likely to be fatal in puppies and can cause all puppies in a litter to die.

## Preventing parvovirus

**Puppies** should be vaccinated at:

- 8 weeks of age
- 12 weeks of age
- 16 weeks of age
- then yearly thereafter.

If your dog or puppy is NOT fully vaccinated you should limit your pet's contact with other animals and avoid places where your dog could be exposed to parvovirus (e.g. dog parks, pet stores, training classes etc). When socialising your pet before this time, it's important to ensure the other animals are fully vaccinated.

**Adult dogs** – vaccinate once a year to prevent them from contracting the virus. You should discuss your dog's circumstances with your vet.



 [rspcavic.org](https://rspcavic.org)

 03 9224 2222

 3 Burwood Highway  
Burwood East VIC 3151



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
(Victoria) ABN 56 749 449 191 | ACN 131 965 761



# Parvovirus

## A serious disease in dogs and puppies



## Parvovirus is a serious disease that affects unvaccinated dogs of all ages. It spreads easily between dogs and can cause their death.

Dog faeces (poo) are the most common source of the virus, so dogs can pick it up from the soil or other dogs. It can also be spread by contact with other dogs, contaminated footwear, clothing, bedding, food and water bowls and toys.

Parvovirus can survive in the home, soil and backyard for years after first appearing. Therefore, it is crucial that your dog's vaccinations remain up to date so they are always protected against the virus.

Parvovirus attacks dogs' gastrointestinal tracts, damaging the linings of the intestinal tract and bone marrow.

## Symptoms

(Note: some dogs may not display all the below symptoms):

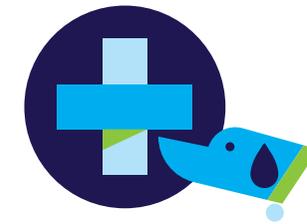
- vomiting
- bloody diarrhoea
- unwillingness to eat
- extreme tiredness or weakness
- fever

## Treatment

1. If you suspect your dog has parvovirus you should see a vet immediately. If the virus is detected early, it can sometimes be treated with plenty of fluids, antibiotics and nursing care. Sadly, many dogs, particularly puppies, become too weak and cannot be saved. It is important to remember that this virus can kill very quickly so you need to see your vet straight away.
2. As parvovirus can be spread through faeces and picked up from the soil, it is essential you always pick up after your dog when they go to the toilet. If everyone in the community picks up their dog's poo, there is less chance the virus will spread.
3. Disinfection and scrubbing of food bowls, toys, bedding and cages is also important to eliminate the virus in the environment and stop the spread to other dogs. If you live in a multi-pet household, we recommend feeding and handling unwell pets last and to be mindful of cross contamination.

Contaminated surfaces can be cleaned with veterinary grade disinfectants (e.g. F10) or diluted household bleach (1 part bleach to 30 parts water). Both options should be left on hard surfaces for 10-15 minutes. Disinfected surfaces should then be rinsed or wiped clean so that the residue does not cause any issues for pets. Any potentially contaminated soft materials should be thrown out. Grass and soil are impossible to adequately clean.

## Treatment



### Step 1

Seek vet help



### Step 2

Bleach and scrub surfaces

## Prevention



### Step 1

Vaccinate



### Step 2

Pick up after your dog