

Doctor's Notes

Protecting Your Pup from Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a lethal virus that spreads through the feces of infected dogs. It is one of the diseases we are most concerned about in puppies. When a dog is infected, the virus first sets up in the lymph nodes of the throat and quickly replicates. Within a couple of days, significant amounts of the virus have been released into the bloodstream. Within three to four days, the virus seeks new organs to infest, such as bone marrow and delicate intestinal cells.

Parvovirus has a three- to seven-day incubation period before the puppy appears obviously ill. Symptoms include lethargy; appetite loss; vomiting; abdominal pain and bloating; fever or low body temperature; and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. The diarrhea and vomiting lead to extreme fluid loss and dehydration. The virus attacks intestinal cells and compromises the intestinal barrier, allowing it to invade the entire body.

Parvovirus preys especially on puppies and immune suppressed dogs, which is why we recommend restricting your puppy from public outdoor areas and contact with unfamiliar dogs until their vaccination series is completed. Disinfecting an area where the virus has been present is extremely difficult, and in warmer climates, the virus can survive up to a year in the environment.



When left untreated, parvovirus results in death in 50 percent of cases. A puppy diagnosed with the disease must be isolated, hospitalized, and treated with IV fluids and antibiotics. Recovery is challenging. While the damaged immune system is trying to respond to treatment, fluid loss and bacterial invasion can still cause damage.

Prevention is the most important thing to remember about parvovirus. Follow our new puppy vaccination protocol faithfully to boost your pup's defenses against parvo and other diseases.

Goose Honks Summer Can Be Ruff!

Hi, again! Summertime is here, which brings hot days and hot paws! Did you know that in the heat of summer it gets so hot that the sidewalk could burn my foot pads? My mom, Dr. Moore, always makes sure to walk me and my brother Knox when the sun goes down so that we don't overheat. She takes such good care of us.

Mom always makes sure I have plenty of clean water to drink during the summer and I really like ice cubes. Whenever we go for car rides (I love a good puppy latte from Starbucks), she never leaves me alone in the car. I heard her telling someone that the temperature in a hot car can climb to 120 degrees in just a few minutes!



My mom also told her friend what to do if her dog gets too hot. She said that dogs can only sweat through their foot pads and tongues, so to put alcohol on their foot pads because the evaporation cools them off. And of course, get them to a vet ASAP. Spraying them with water doesn't really do much and could potentially burn their skin if the water hose has been out in the sun and off.

Gotta go for a walk. My brother really pulls his dad, but my mom says I'm an angel to walk with.

Goose



Protecting Cats from FIP How to Prevent this Lethal Virus

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a viral disease that is caused by strains of the feline coronavirus. While most strains of coronavirus don't cause disease, in a small percentage of cats the infection progresses into clinical FIP, referred to as feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV). White blood cells become infected and inflamed with the virus, often in the kidneys, abdomen or brain. The interaction between the cat's immune system and the virus is what causes the disease.

Cats under age three are most at risk for infection as well as cats with weakened immune systems, geriatric cats, and those in homes with multiple cats. The virus can spread through feces and can be active for three to seven weeks, so surfaces where the virus may linger must be disinfected.

There are two forms of FIP. The "dry" form causes chronic weight loss, fever, loss of appetite, and lethargy. In addition, 10 to 25 percent of affected cats will have neurological problems such as paralysis, disorientation, loss of balance, tremors, convulsions, behavior changes, and urinary incontinence. Cats with the dry form can live up to one year.

Many of the symptoms seen in the dry form are often seen in the "wet" form of FIP but anemia is also typically present. In the wet form, the disease progresses quickly. The cat may appear pot-bellied from fluid accumulation in the abdomen and may also have fluid in the chest. Cats with the wet form usually die within two months.

To diagnose FIP, we can x-ray the abdomen and chest to look for fluid buildup and test the blood, liver, kidney, pancreas and sugar levels. If the diagnosis is positive, we can provide supportive and comfort care; however, survival is rare.

Fortunately, we can prevent FIP. To do so, all cats in your home should follow our vaccine protocol. Be sure to ask us if you aren't sure your kitty is protected.

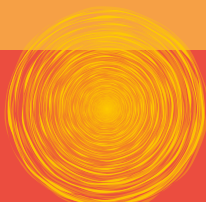
Waiting Room Etiquette Have a Safe and Less Stressful Visit

A trip to the hospital is stressful for all pets but poor waiting room etiquette can make it even more stressful. Even worse—it can lead to injury. We love all our patients and want each of them to have the best experience possible. Keep these tips in mind to help us reach that goal:

- 🐾 Please keep your dog on a leash and your cat in a carrier. Even the best-behaved pets can be uncharacteristically aggressive under stress.
- 🐾 Please don't let your pet approach other animals. This is a bad time for socialization since animals are more anxious than usual. Even a friendly approach by your pet can result in a bite!
- 🐾 If your pet is scared, aggressive or potentially contagious, just let us know that you are going to wait outside or in your car and we'll be happy to find you when it's time for your exam.
- 🐾 Remember that others may be very upset over what is happening with their pet. Avoid insensitive comments or questions and allow them some privacy.
- 🐾 Please don't touch other people's pets without permission.
- 🐾 Please set your phone to silent mode. Ringing phones and loud conversations can add to the stress for nervous pets and anxious pet parents.



Thank you so much for being a polite visitor and helping us keep the waiting room safe!



Vacation Checklist

Traveling with Your Pet



Planning a family vacation includes deciding whether to travel with our four-legged family members or leave them with a caregiver. Taking pets along requires extra time and planning but your pup may be happier with you than with any other arrangement. Cats, however, may be happier at home or at a reputable boarding facility. More people are opting to travel with pets, and an increasing number of hotels, vacation rentals, restaurants and beaches are becoming pet friendly. If you bring your pet along, follow these tips:

- ✔ Be sure you see us for a checkup to ensure your pet is healthy enough to travel and their vaccinations are current.
- ✔ Know the pet policy and extra fees of airlines and hotels before you go to avoid surprises.
- ✔ Make a checklist of items your pet will need, including food, extra water, medications, treats, toys, waste bags, bedding and grooming items. Plan how you will pack and carry these items.
- ✔ Take short test drives to ensure that your pet doesn't suffer from carsickness. If so, talk to us about medications.
- ✔ Pets are more likely to be lost when you travel. Be sure they are microchipped and wearing a tag with your contact info.
- ✔ Search ahead of time for dog-friendly restaurants and parks. Leaving your pet in the car while you dine is not an option!
- ✔ Don't expose your pet to other animals that may be aggressive or may carry diseases.
- ✔ Be sure to bring their health records with you on your trip.



Refer a Friend and Save!

Refer a new client and save \$10 on your next doctor's visit.

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointment.

Senior Wellness Savings

\$20 Savings

for Canine and Feline

Senior Wellness Profile includes bloodwork, urinalysis and thyroid check

Not valid with any other offer.
Expires 8/31/2024.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.

Expires 8/31/2024.

Microchip Savings

\$10 Savings

on Microchipping
(includes registration in the national database)

Increase the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you!

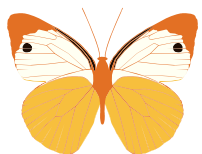
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