



Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic

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Small Animal 250-782-5616, Large Animal 250-782-1080
www.dcvet.ca

Parvo – What Every Pet Owner Should Know

**Parvo is a highly contagious virus. PLEASE STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE
DO NOT enter the clinic**

Parvo causes an infectious gastrointestinal (GI) illness in puppies and young dogs, and without treatment, it is potentially deadly. The main source of the virus is infected feces, which can be tracked into your home and yard by your shoes. It also can be spread on the pads of feet from stray dogs, cats, raccoons, opossum's, coyotes, etc...Even the mailman can unknowingly step in infected poo from one yard and carry it across multiple yards in just a day's time. It's very hardy and easily spread.

It can live in the environment for up to and sometimes over a year's time, no matter how harsh the weather temps are. A simple course of vaccinations, with boosters every three years, can protect your canine family for life.

Puppies are born with antibodies from their mothers. As these antibodies fade, however, it is up to owners to make sure that the puppies receive a course of Parvo vaccinations.

SIGNS IN THE ANIMAL

- Loss of energy, sluggishness
- Lack of appetite, vomiting, and/or profuse diarrhea with rapid, severe weight loss
- Depression
- Severe cases may result in generalized bacterial infection, acute respiratory distress syndrome and death.
- Change in appetite
- Fever
- Abdominal discomfort or distention ("pot belly")
- Dehydration

TREATMENT

- Parvovirus test takes about 15 minutes. **Please wait in the car while this test is running.**
- Your dog may need further tests including bloodwork to assess the severity of the infection
- Treatment may include IV fluids, pain medications, anti-nausea medications and anti-inflammatory medications.
- Occasionally there may be complications such as intestinal blockages or septicemia and more intensive care may be required.

Testing for Parvo is easily done in our parking lot in your vehicle. Suspected animals and owners are not allowed to enter our clinic!!

A veterinarian or technologist will come out to your vehicle to discuss the test results