

CANINE PARVOVIRUS INFORMATION

RASKC is an open admission shelter. All animals needing care, found running at large, or placed with us for re-homing by their owners come here. They will vary in vaccination and immune status, age, and how they handle stress in a kennel environment. Because we don't know the health history of many animals entering our shelter, we may occasionally experience cases of parvo. We approach medical care with control and management of disease as a first priority.

All dogs are vaccinated against the major diseases: parvo, distemper, and kennel cough on entry. Even dogs that look healthy and happy may develop symptoms during their stay with us. Cleaning protocols and disinfection are designed to limit the spread, should it occur, and to inactivate the virus where it was located. We want you to be aware of our concern and to have some basic information on the disease.

- Parvovirus is highly infectious and causes diarrhea (sometimes bloody) vomiting, lethargy, weakness, and fever. The virus also attacks white blood cells leaving the infected dog more susceptible to other bacterial infections.
- Diarrhea can be mild or severe and fatal. Diarrhea in an otherwise bright, alert, eating, drinking dog is more likely due to diet change, stress, or parasites than parvo.
- The virus is very contagious and is spread by exposure to feces. Unfortunately, dogs from shelters are exposed to many other dogs. New pets should be observed for 14 days after adoption to be sure that they are not incubating the virus.
- There is some risk that a dog incubating parvovirus, but not yet showing symptoms, will infect other dogs. Your new dog and its feces should be kept away from puppies and unvaccinated dogs for two weeks. Dogs that have had at least two vaccines, with the last one at least two weeks prior to exposure to an infected dog are protected fairly well.
- Parvovirus is specific to dogs alone and cannot be transmitted to humans or other pets of different species, such as cats.
- If you suspect your dog has parvo, call your vet as soon as possible. The earlier the infection is diagnosed and treated with fluids, antibiotics, and nursing care the more likely it is to do well. If your veterinarian confirms that your pet has parvo, please let us know. We can then manage the potential risk to other dogs who may have been housed in the same kennels. These animals are held through a potential incubation period to make certain that they too haven't contracted the disease prior to placing them up for adoption. The adoption desk number is 206-296-3936.

I have read and understand the above:

_____ Date: _____