

I have a young puppy and have heard about a disease called parvovirus, what can I do to protect my puppy from this disease?

Parvovirus infection is one of the viruses most concerning to new puppy owners. A puppy becomes infected by coming in contact with stool from an infected dog or from a contaminated environment. Parvovirus is a very hardy virus and can live in the environment for a long time so nearly all puppies can be exposed to this virus. The disease causes vomiting and diarrhea that can quickly lead to dehydration, shock and death. The mother dog usually passes antibodies against this disease to her puppies through her milk, but at an early age those maternal antibodies start to decline. Although there is no way to be completely protected from this disease, the best protection is proper vaccination. Vaccinations that are given at the best times allow us to follow up on the maternal protection once it starts to decline. Vaccination for this and other viruses is typically given to puppies at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. All dogs should be vaccinated for this deadly disease.