

# Pawsitive Press

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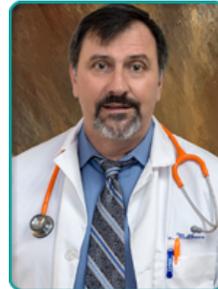
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## What is Parvo?

**By: Dr. Wade Matthews**

I can still remember the first case of parvo virus that I ever saw. Unfortunately it was only a necropsy sample of a dog's small intestine in to take back to the University of Florida for evaluation for parvo. I was working in Branford Florida as a veterinary technician the year before I started veterinary school in 1980 and dogs were dying of a new disease in the area and we needed help in solving the dilemma. These dogs would start to become depressed, most would vomit and all of them had severe diarrhea with lots of blood in it. We did everything we knew how to do at that time to save them, but we couldn't. It was a severe time for us because we really had nothing to offer the owners as their pet died from dehydration, despite having intravenous fluids given to them. Vaccine companies had been working on a cure for some time before the outbreak, and the next year the veterinary profession had a new weapon to fight parvo. It was like night and day difference when we were able to vaccinate puppies for this disease. When the disease first started no pets had any



immunity to it so very few actually lived to pass on the antibodies on to their young. Now with the aid of vaccines, female dogs have antibodies to the disease and can pass them on through their colostrum, which is in the first 24 to 48 hours that the puppies nurse.



## Why is Parvo so bad in dogs?

Pets need to have a certain amount of hydration for the body to work properly. They get water, electrolytes, minerals, carbohydrate, fat and protein from whatever they eat and drink. The bowel has billions of "villi" that form the lining of the bowel and that is where water and nutrients are absorbed. The parvo virus actually enters the villi to replicate and this process cause the villi to die very

quickly. With other viral diseases the same thing happens, but the reason parvo is so severe is that it kills the whole villi and not just part of it. It leaves the bowel unable to digest or absorb almost anything. Even if the pet eats or drinks something it passes right through the bowel undigested and un-absorbed. The villi will regenerate but it takes many days for that to happen so the pet is at major risk of dying during that time.

## What can I do to protect my pet?

When you buy a puppy make sure that the mother was vaccinated before she was bred, this will help protect the puppy when it is very young. As they grow they need to develop their own antibodies to protect them. Puppies should be vaccinated at least twice and the second vaccine needs to be at 16 weeks of age or older. Our standard puppy vaccine schedule is to vaccinate them for parvo at 6 weeks, 9weeks, 12 weeks and to do everything possible for them not to get this life threatening disease.



# Understanding your Pets Vaccines

## Canine Vaccines

**Distemper (Da2p-p):** This is a combination vaccine. All of the letters in **Da2p-p** stand for **D**istemper, **A**denovirus, **T**ype **2**, **P**ara-Influenza, and **P**arvo. Distemper is a highly contagious disease spread through the air and by contaminated objects, much like the cold virus in humans. It is seen more commonly in young dogs, but it can also occur at any age. Signs of distemper range from a runny nose and eyes, to severe diarrhea, vomiting, and seizures.

**Bordetella (BORD):** a.k.a Kennel Cough is caused by a virus. The most common sign is a continual honking cough. Inhaling infective particles that are in the air transmits kennel cough. All dogs who are being boarded or in close proximity to dogs outside of the home should be vaccinated with Bordetella. They should also receive this vaccine if they are exposed to other dogs at places like obedience classes, dog shows, and dog parks.

**Leptospirosis (Lepto):** is a bacterial disease that can be found in most. The bacteria are passed via the urine into water sources, where they reside and reproduce. The bacteria can survive for long periods of time in water, moist soil, and infected urine. The bacteria can be present in any stagnant surface water, moist soil, and recreational water sources such as ponds or lakes. Dogs can become infected with Leptospirosis by drinking, swimming in, or walking through contaminated water. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream through a cut in the skin or through mucous membranes (such as eyes, nose, or mouth). Leptospirosis is a contagious disease that can be transmitted from dog to dog or from dog to human.

## Feline Vaccines

**Distemper (FVRCP):** **FVR** Stands For Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis. Rhinotracheitis is a severe upper respiratory infection caused by a feline type 1, herpes-virus. **C** for Calicivirus Infection. There are several strains of caliciviruses that affect the cat. They can cause a range of diseases, from a mild almost asymptomatic infection, to life-threatening pneumonia. **P** stand for Panleukopenia. Panleukopenia (also known as feline distemper and infectious feline enteritis) is a highly contagious disease characterized by a short course and high mortality rate. The disease is caused by a parvovirus similar to the parvovirus seen in dogs. It is very resistant and may remain infectious in the environment for up to a year.

**FeLV:** Feline leukemia virus, a retrovirus, so named because of the way it behaves within infected cells. Cats persistently infected with FeLV serve as sources of infection. Virus is shed in very high quantities in saliva and nasal secretions, but also in urine, feces, and milk from infected cats. Cat-to-cat transfer of virus may occur from a bite wound, during mutual grooming, and (though rarely) through the shared use of litter boxes and feeding dishes. Transmission can also take place from an infected mother cat to her kittens, either before they are born or while they are nursing. FeLV doesn't survive long outside a cat's body—probably less than a few hours under normal household conditions.

## Both dogs and cats receive the rabies vaccine

**Rabies** - is a fatal disease caused by a virus which all warm-blooded animals are susceptible, including humans. An infected animal has to bite another animal or person in order to spread the disease. The rabies vaccination is the only vaccination that the law requires all cats, dogs, and horses to be current on. If a pet was boosted for this vaccination at least once in their lifetime, they may receive a three-year rabies vaccination. Puppies and kittens receiving this vaccination for the first time can only have a one year vaccination. Currently, there is no cure for rabies.



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**\$1**

## First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. **NL**



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**-10%**

## 10% Off Dental Cleaning

( Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase. **Expires 8/31/18 NL**



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**\$5 Off**

## \$5 off Bath with Annual Exam

Call to schedule an annual exam appointment and leave your pet for a bath and receive \$5 off the cost of the bathing services. The bath will include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. **Expires 8/31/18 NL**