

Congratulations on your new puppy! But we should have a talk about Parvo...

What is it?

Parvovirus is a viral disease of dogs. It affects puppies much more frequently than it affects adult dogs – mostly because adult dogs have a lifetime of vaccinations. The virus likes to grow in rapidly dividing cells. Because the intestinal lining has the biggest concentration of rapidly dividing cells in a puppy's body, the virus attacks and kills these cells, causing diarrhea (often bloody), depression and suppression of white blood cells. It also prevents the absorption of nutrients. In very young puppies it can infect the heart muscle and lead to sudden death. The puppy you are adopting is like having a newborn baby with a young immune system. Please remember to make a note of your pup's next Parvo vaccination.

How do I know my dog has it?

Parvovirus is most easily diagnosed when a dog or pup has diarrhea, vomiting and extreme lethargy. It will usually have a distinct smell of metal or blood and is sometimes yellow in color. If your new pooch has stopped eating and is having any of these signs, please give us a call! We need to know right away to step in to help with diagnoses and treatment. **Barbara's cell is 703-863-7191** If your pet develops Parvo, immediate veterinary care is critical to your pet's survival. And the longer you delay that care, the lower your pet's chances of survival become.

How is it treated?

Treatment of Parvo must happen immediately. Dogs with Parvo will quickly become dehydrated and can develop secondary infections. Usually injectible antibiotics and either IV or subcutaneous fluids are the best and only options. Treatment can cost thousands of dollars. There is no cure but there is treatment and hope. Parvo is very costly and we cannot cover the treatment cost at your vet. You need to call us right away and see our veterinary.

If your puppy shows signs of Parvo:

Step 1: **Call Barbara 703-863-7191**

Step 2: After speaking with Barbara, you will need to take your puppy to the veterinarian we trust:
England Run Veterinary Hospital
756 Warrenton Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

We do not want to scare you but we need to have this talk so you know to call us right away. We care about you and your puppy! Your dog's health is very important to us! Please take a few minutes to talk about Parvo with your Adoption Coordinator.