

ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

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| Disease Name: | Parvo (Canine Parvoviral Enteritis) – Core Vaccine | | |
| Agent: | Canine parvovirus (unenveloped DNA virus) | | |
| Clinical Signs: | Vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia and dehydration | | |
| Susceptible domestic species | Dogs and cats | | |
| Zoonotic? | No | | |
| Diagnostic aids: | ELISA test for fecal antigen | CBC: leukopenia-lymphopenia | In-house necropsy: enteritis, thickening of distal duodenum and jejunum |
| Test sensitivity (false negatives) | Good in first 5-7 days of disease (estimates range from 69-95.8%) | Moderate – more common in severe disease | Good during acute disease |
| Test specificity (false positives) | Very good (estimates range from 93-100%, caution in recent vaccinates) | Moderate – may also be seen with Canine Distemper, and other diseases | Moderate – mild cases indistinguishable from enteritis of other causes |
| Test comments | False positive possible (though uncommon) 5-12 days after MLV vaccine. Usually weak if present. | | Histopathology performed by commercial lab is gold standard |
| Vaccine available? | Yes; modified live subcutaneous. Vaccinate immediately on intake , can confer protection within 3-5 days. Vaccination is the cornerstone of parvovirus prevention in shelters and communities. | | |
| Vaccine efficacy | Excellent in dogs >16 weeks (maternal antibody interference possible in dogs < 12-16 weeks). | | |
| Excreted in : | Feces – shedding often <i>precedes</i> clinical signs by a couple of days, therefore underlines importance of PPE/quarantine from other dogs at intake and first few days, and ongoing rounds and monitoring. | | |
| Mode of transmission: | Readily spread due to extreme environmental resistance – direct contact, fomites, mechanically spread by rodents and insects, can be aerosolized by high-pressure sprayers | | |
| Disinfection | THOROUGH cleaning followed by accelerated hydrogen peroxides (Prevail or Peroxigard Plus), or potassium peroxymonosulfate (Virkon or Trifectant), or bleach 1:32 No way to fully decontaminate unbleachable materials/organic matter such as grass or dirt yards. May persist for months or years, especially in dark, cool environments. | | |
| Incubation | 3 -14 days (usually 4 -7 days, occasionally up to 21 days). Therefore, 14 days quarantine for exposed unvaccinated dogs. | | |
| Post-recovery shedding | Usually < 2 weeks | | |



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| Carrier state? | No, but mild or unapparent infection is common, especially in adults. |
| PPE Required | Gloves, gown, impermeable shoe covers |