



A new strain of the highly contagious canine parvovirus has been discovered in Australia. In 2017, researchers at the University of Adelaide have now confirmed cases in South Australia and Victoria, and suspect that more exist in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Over the last two years vets around Australia noticed dogs presenting classic parvo symptoms, but returning negative results in tests.

***There have been recent reports of Parvo in the Northern Adelaide Suburbs, Mount Gambier and Millicent in the last 2 weeks (December 2019).**

WHAT IS CANINE PARVOVIRUS (CPV)?

Canine Parvovirus, commonly known as Parvo is a viral illness that causes vomiting, bloody diarrhoea and weight loss in dogs. It is especially dangerous in puppies aged between six weeks and six months where it can be fatal. Early vaccination has been effective at reducing death rates.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PARVO?

If any of these symptoms below are identified in your dog, it is highly recommended that the dog be isolated as soon as possible and receive immediate veterinary care

- Extreme vomiting and diarrhoea
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Lethargy and/or depression
- Fever

HOW IS PARVO TRANSMITTED?

Parvo is transmitted by anything or anyone that comes in contact with infected feces or vomit. Feces is often carried on a dog's hair or paws and can easily be transferred to humans via clothing or shoes. If a dog sniffs or licks any contaminated surface or item like clothing, carpet, food/water bowls, bedding or kennels, they will likely become infected.

Parvo virus survives by being extremely resilient to its host and also in the environment. It can hang around the environment for many months and only requires a relatively small number of viral particles to infect a dog.

PREVENTING PARVO

VACCINATE!!

The most important thing that all dog owners can do is to vaccinate your puppies.

*It can take 7 - 10 days before the vaccine becomes effective!!!

KILL THE VIRUS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

If you do have an outbreak of parvo, it is very important to isolate the dog ASAP, seek immediate Veterinary care and properly disinfect contaminated areas

- Cleaning food bowls
- Water bowls
- Beds
- Blankets
- Anything and everything that has come into contact with an infected animal

Bleach is said to be the most effective disinfectant to kill parvo when used correctly. Always read safety labels, ensure the bleach has a contact time of at least 10- 15 minutes to effectively kill the virus.

