



# Canine Parvovirus

- Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious infectious disease of dogs worldwide caused by canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2). It is often fatal, especially in dogs infected at <1 year of age when mortality can be 50% or greater.
- Dogs with this disease most often develop severe enteritis leading to vomiting and diarrhoea that is often, but not always, bloody. Infected dogs are also frequently lethargic and anorectic. In very young (periparturient) puppies, CPV-2 can infect the heart muscle, causing myocarditis, often leading to sudden death.
- The most common source of infection is directly from an infected dog shedding virus in its faeces or CPV-2 that has contaminated the environment. CPV-2 is one of the most stable viruses in the environment, surviving for at least 1 year or more in soil. A facility that has housed infected dogs should be considered contaminated.
- Older susceptible dogs that become infected are less likely than pups to develop severe disease, but they do shed large amounts of virus in faeces that serve as a source of disease for younger susceptible dogs.
- Modified live virus (MLV) CPV-2 vaccines are highly efficacious, and provide prolonged immunity in a high percentage of dogs that receive at least one dose of vaccine after 16 weeks of age, when maternally derived antibody (MDA) has disappeared. It is strongly recommended that all dogs 16 weeks of age and older receive at least one dose of a combination MLV vaccine containing CPV-2, CDV, and CAV-2 (with or without CPi). Immunity occurs as early as 3 days post-vaccination when vaccine is given to dogs without MDA.
- Canine parvovirus is a vaccine preventable disease!

Vomiting



Photo: LE Carmichael

Inflamed gut loops

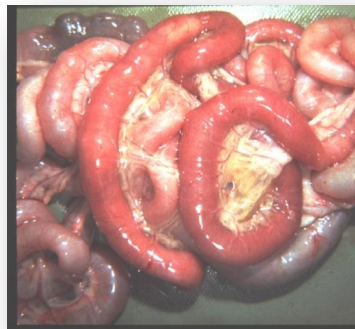


Photo: LE Carmichael

Severe bloody diarrhoea



Photo: RD Schultz, LJ Larson