



London
C A N A D A

For Your Information.....

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON

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Canine Parvovirus has been identified in London – what you need to know

Canine Parvovirus has been identified in London recently as well as several other municipalities. Parvovirus is highly contagious and fatal if not treated. The City of London is suggesting all pet owners ensure their pets are up to date with their vaccinations. Also, pet owners must recognize that if their dogs are not vaccinated, they are not permitted to use City of London Off-leash Dog Parks.

The City of London thanks the Westmount Neighbourhood Pet Clinic for the following Canine Parovirus information:

What is Canine Parvovirus Infection?

Canine Parvovirus Infection (Parvo) is a serious viral disease of dogs. First discovered in the late 1970's, clinical cases of the disease have been on the rise. The most common presentation of parvo is vomiting and diarrhea as the virus destroys the absorptive lining of the intestinal tract.

The disease can be life-threatening, especially in younger dogs and its most serious complication is the dehydration that results from repeated episodes of vomiting and diarrhea. In short, dogs can't keep anything down, including water.

The virus is spread by fecal-oral transmission.

The good news is that most dogs who have visited a veterinarian will have been vaccinated against Parvo. The vaccine is often given in combination with other vaccines such as distemper. The vaccine is very effective when administered according to the manufacturer's label.

What are the steps you can take to prevent your dog from contracting Parvo?

- Make sure your pet has been vaccinated. If you aren't sure, consult your veterinarian. Remember, rabies vaccines alone do not contain parvovirus protection.
- Do not take your pet to off leash dog parks if they are not vaccinated.
- People with puppies should avoid dog parks and public places until their immune system have developed.
- If your pet has not been vaccinated (or you aren't sure), try to prevent them from engaging in the behaviours of sniffing or licking other dog's stool or anal area. Dogs are particularly at risk of contracting this disease in unsupervised situations like running in the park, along a beach or along a walking trail.
- Remember to stoop and scoop your dog's feces.

In life there are few absolutes, but vaccinating your dog to ensure it has immunity to Parvovirus is really the only way to be assured your pet is protected from this life threatening disease.

For more information please contact your veterinarian.