

## FACT SHEET

# PARVOVIRUS INFECTION

### What is Parvovirus?

Canine parvovirus (Parvo) is a highly contagious infection that affects all dogs of any age. The virus is very aggressive and has an extremely high mortality rate if left untreated. Parvo attacks the lining of the dog's gut and also the bone marrow which produces white blood cells. In survivors, parvovirus can be shed for 5-21 days after infection, dogs who have recovered from parvovirus should not be walked in public for several weeks.

### How can my dog become infected with Parvo?

The main source of Parvo is in the faeces/poo of infected dogs. Your dog can catch this by swallowing the virus. Dogs will usually become ill or show signs of illness 7-10 days after being infected with Parvo.

Parvovirus can live for very long periods of time, and can be brought into your home or garden on your shoes or car tyres. If your dog doesn't leave your property they are still at risk of catching Parvo.

### What are the symptoms of Parvo?

Not all dogs will show every sign of Parvo, if your dog shows any sign of illness you should contact the vet as soon as possible. Symptoms of Parvo can include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea, including bloody diarrhoea
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy and depression

### How do I protect my dog against Parvo?

Parvo is an easily preventable disease through vaccination. Contact your local vet to check your dog is up to date with its vaccinations or to schedule a vaccination.

### Can my dog pass Parvo onto my family or other animals?

There is currently no evidence that Parvo can be caught by humans or cats.

### Where can I find more information?

For more information on Parvo, contact your local vet:

- Kalgoorlie Veterinary Clinic: (08) 9021 3965
- Kalgoorlie Animal Hospital: (08) 9021 6000