

# Protect your dog from Parvo!

## 1. What is parvo?

Canine parvovirus (parvo) is a virus (germ) that attacks the intestines and immune system of dogs. Every year, hundreds of dogs in Los Angeles County get sick with canine parvo. You can protect your dog by getting them vaccinated.

## 2. How does parvo spread?

Dogs can catch parvo when they touch other dogs that have it or the ground where a sick dog has walked. A dog with parvo contaminates its environment with the virus. So dogs can also catch parvo from the bedding, toys, bowls, and even the yard of a dog that has parvo. The virus can live for months in an environment, including in public parks and dog parks. Puppies are most likely to catch it. Humans do NOT get sick from this virus.

## 3. What are the signs of parvo?

Parvo causes vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. The diarrhea is usually bloody. Dogs can die from parvo.

## 4. How do I protect my dog?

Get your dog vaccinated! Shots (vaccines) save dogs' lives and save money. The DHLPP or DHPP vaccine protects your dog from parvo. One shot is not enough! Keep your puppy away from public areas until it has finished the first series of shots. Allow your puppy to play only with a few healthy, vaccinated dogs in a yard where you know no sick dogs have been in the last year.

DHLPP Vaccine	
Puppies	Unvaccinated Adults
Need the shot at age 2, 3, and 4 months of age, then again a year later.	Need the shot twice (one month apart) then again a year later.
<b>Booster shots:</b> After their starting series, all dogs should get the DHLPP shot every 1-3 years for life.	

## 5. Where do I get the DHLPP (or DHPP) vaccine?

**Veterinary hospitals:** Team up with a local veterinarian to keep your dog healthy. Many veterinary hospitals offer low-cost vaccinations on certain days.

**Animal Shelters:** Most animal shelters offer low-cost vaccination on certain days.



### Key Points:

- Every year, hundreds of dogs in Los Angeles County get sick with canine parvo.
- Puppies are most likely to catch parvo.
- Humans do NOT get sick from canine parvo.
- Shots (vaccines) save dogs' lives and save money.

### For more information:

#### List of local animal shelters

[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/animalcontrollist.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/animalcontrollist.htm)

#### Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health

[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/parvo.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/parvo.htm)

#### Healthy Pets Healthy Families Initiative – Vaccine-preventable diseases

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/HPHF/HPHF\\_Vx.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/HPHF/HPHF_Vx.htm)