



SEASONAL PAW PRINT

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Canine Parvovirus – Is your dog at risk?

Parvovirus in dogs is a killer, causing sudden-onset, profuse, smelly, bloody diarrhoea and vomiting which can lead to severe dehydration and rapid death (within 24–48 hours), especially in unvaccinated pups and young dogs. Vaccination is the best protection for your dog against this disease.

In the majority of cases, a dog that contracts parvovirus will die. If diagnosed early enough, treatment may involve intensive care for several days in the veterinary hospital and can be costly with no guarantee of survival; however

the earlier it is diagnosed the more chance of a successful treatment outcome. Veterinarians use an in clinic test which can quickly identify Parvovirus. In unvaccinated pups this disease can be devastating, as the infection can very quickly spread through an entire litter.

Vaccination is the **ONLY** way to prevent parvovirus.

Despite the deadly nature of parvovirus, there are still thousands of dogs in New Zealand who remain unvaccinated and continue to spread this highly contagious virus. Outbreaks are regularly reported, affecting both urban and rural dogs.

Dogs infected with parvovirus shed millions of virus particles in their faeces for up to three weeks. The virus can then be spread from one dog to another through exposure to contaminated faeces. Parvovirus can survive freezing temperatures and most household disinfectants will not kill it. This virus can also be spread on shoes and clothing, meaning that any dog, person or vehicle entering your property may be a source of infection.

Vaccinating your dog is the **ONLY** way to prevent canine parvovirus infection.

Vets On Alabama use the Nobivac® range of vaccines which provide world-leading protection against parvovirus. These vaccines contain a patented strain of parvovirus called C154 which delivers proven cross-protection against all types of known parvovirus. You can trust Nobivac® to provide solid protection against canine parvovirus.



For more information on canine parvovirus or to book your dog/s in for a vaccination please contact Vets on Alabama on 03 5786965.

85% OF ADULT PETS HAVE PERIODONTAL DISEASE.

Could your pet be at risk?



Imagine what would happen if you didn't routinely care for your teeth in between dental cleanings. The same basics of dental care are true for your pet, too. Without routine care, your pet could suffer from increasingly serious stages of periodontal disease.

In Stage 1, Gingivitis, the gum (or gingiva) at the top of teeth is inflamed and swollen, and plaque covers the teeth. Treatment can reverse the condition.

Canine



Feline



In Stage 2, Early Periodontitis, the entire attached gum is inflamed and swollen. The pet's mouth is painful, and bad breath is noticeable. Professional treatment and home dental care can prevent this from becoming irreversible.



In Stage 3, Moderate Periodontitis, infection and calculus are destroying the gum, now bright red and bleeding. The pet's mouth is sore, which can affect eating and behavior. Bad breath is consistent. Periodontitis has started and may be irreversible.



In Stage 4, Advanced Periodontitis, chronic bacterial infection is destroying the gum, teeth and bone. Bacteria may be spreading in the bloodstream throughout the body, which can damage the kidneys, liver and heart.



Periodontal disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats. The good news is it's simple and easy to prevent.

Photos courtesy of Jan Bellows, DVM, PA, DABVP, DABVP



Caring for Your Pet's Teeth

Regular brushing and annual dental cleaning are just as important for dogs and cats as they are for humans. Too often, we overlook the need for dental care in our pets. Untreated teeth can cause serious problems in the overall health of your pet.

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets. Cats often develop cavities below the gum line, which may be hard to detect but can be very painful. As in humans, abscessed teeth or periodontal disease can affect other parts of the body. In dogs and cats it can cause disease in multiple organs including the heart, kidney and lungs.

A regular veterinary dental check-up and cleaning under a short lasting anaesthetic is important to your pet's good health. Equally important is home dental care, such as brushing your pet's teeth at least 3 times a week. Lack of daily plaque removal at home is the single most important reason our pets are so commonly affected by dental disease.

Although caring for your pet's teeth at home may at first seem a difficult (if not impossible) job, the recent development of many innovative home-care dental products has simplified this task tremendously.

Brushing:

Toothbrush/finger brush or Dental wipes: These specially designed brushes and wipes for dogs and cats, the “gold standard” for plaque removal, can be used with special animal toothpaste (a non-foaming, enzymatic, antibacterial paste in tasty chicken, malt, vanilla, beef or seafood flavours). Only the outside surfaces of the teeth need brushing, which takes about 30 seconds per side. (do not be tempted to use human toothpaste as it will irritate your pet’s stomach).

The following technique can be used to ease both younger & older animals into brushing:

To introduce your pet to brushing: use dental wipes with your finger & use it like a toothbrush on your pet’s teeth. Wipe all the teeth, front & back, with strokes from the gum line to the tip of the tooth. Do this for 1-2 weeks until your pet is familiar with having his or her gums rubbed.

Gradually work up to a soft toothbrush & plain water.

After a week of using a soft brush, add a small amount of dog & cat toothpaste.

Brush the front teeth first & then the large upper & lower teeth in the back.

Make sure you get the brush all the way back to the last teeth, because they accumulate tartar & calculus rapidly. You may have to lift the lip a little to recheck these teeth. *It is not necessary to brush the inside surface of the teeth in most pets.* Hold the mouth closed & focus on the outside surface. The brush should be moved in an oval direction & rub in the crevice where the gum meets the teeth, because this is where odour & infection begin. Some pets do very well with electric toothbrushes.

Water Additives

Products such as Aquadent & Healthy Mouth can be very helpful. They are added to your pet’s drinking water & can help minimise calculus formation. They also help freshen the breath.

Dental Foods

Diets such as Hills T/D & Royal Canin Dental Diet are prescription diets designed to help clean the teeth. They can be used when brushing is impractical & are nutritionally balanced dry formulas with a woven texture that scrapes pets teeth clean as they chew. They are well-liked by most pets & relatively low calorie. Hills T/D also helps prevent gingivitis in dogs & cats.

Dental Treats & chews

Some dental chews are impregnated with antibacterial enzymes and help prevent tartar & calculus. The act of chewing also helps so things such as Kong chews are very useful.

We encourage you to regularly examine your pet’s teeth for signs of periodontal disease, including swollen red or bleeding gums; persistent bad breath; loose teeth or the loss of teeth; pus between the gums & teeth; broken teeth & any unusual growth in the mouth. Reluctance to play with chew toys, eat or drink cold water are warning signs of periodontal or gum disease.



DUAL CLEANING-ACTION

USED DAILY, THEY WORK TO CLEAN, THEN PROTECT.

Plaque and calculus are very common problems in dogs. Plaque forms when bacteria attach to teeth, and over time, this plaque hardens to form calculus (tartar). The accumulation of plaque and calculus can lead to bad breath and other problems. The dual-action approach of *OraVet* Chews doesn’t just clean teeth and freshen breath. It creates a barrier to help protect against plaque, calculus, and bad breath.

Read more @ <http://www.oravet.com/> or pop in and see us at the clinic.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PET'S BLOODWORK

Blood tests help us to determine your pet's health status & causes of illness, accurately, safely & quickly. They also let us monitor the progress of medical treatments. We want you to understand our recommendations and be a partner in your pet's care. Please contact 5786965 if you have any questions or require further information.

COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)

A common test, a CBC gives information on hydration status, anaemia, infection, the blood's clotting ability and the immune system's ability to respond.

- HCT (haematocrit) measures the percentage of RBC (red blood cells) to detect anaemia and hydration.
- Hb & MCHC (Haemoglobin & Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration) measure haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying pigment of red blood cells (corpuscles).
- WBC (White Blood Cells). WBC count classifies and measures the body's immune cells. Increases or decreases indicate certain diseases or infections.
- Neutrophils – the most abundant type of WBC. Respond quickly to inflammation & stress & have antimicrobial properties.
- Lymphocytes – WBC that come from lymphoid tissue such as lymph nodes & spleen. Play a role in the immune response.
- Monocytes - develop into macrophages which then respond to inflammation, infection & immune reactions. Interact with lymphocytes to facilitate antibody production.
- EOS (eosinophils) are a specific type of WBC that, if elevated, may indicate allergic or parasitic conditions.
- PLT (platelet count) measures cells that help stop bleeding by forming blood clots.
- RETICs (reticulocytes) are immature red blood cells. High or low levels help classify anaemias.

SERUM CHEMISTRY PROFILE

These common tests evaluate organ function, electrolyte status, hormone levels & more.

- ALB (albumin) is a serum protein that helps evaluate hydration, haemorrhage & intestinal, liver & kidney health.
- ALKP/ALP (Alkaline Phosphatase) elevations may indicate liver damage, Cushing's Disease & active bone growth/change. Certain drugs (eg anti-epileptics & corticosteroids) may also cause an increase.
- ALT (Alanine aminotransferase) is a sensitive indicator of active liver damage but doesn't indicate the cause.
- AMYL (amylase) elevations show pancreatitis or kidney disease.
- AST (aspartate aminotransferase) increases may indicate liver, heart or skeletal muscle damage.
- BUN (Blood Urea Nitrogen) reflects kidney function. An increased blood level is called azotaemia & can be caused by kidney, liver & heart disease, urethral obstruction, shock & dehydration.
- Ca (calcium) deviations can indicate a variety of diseases. Tumours, hyperparathyroidism, kidney disease & low albumin are just a few of the conditions that alter serum calcium.
- Cl (chloride) is an electrolyte often lost with vomiting or Addison's disease. Elevation often indicates dehydration.



- Cortisol is a hormone that is measured in tests for Cushing's Disease & Addison's Disease.
- CREA (Creatinine) reflects kidney function. This test helps distinguish between kidney & non-kidney causes of elevated BUN.
- GGT (gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase) is an enzyme that, when elevated, indicates liver disease or corticosteroid excess.
- GLOB (globulin) is a blood protein that often increases with chronic inflammation & certain disease states.
- GLU (glucose) is blood sugar. Elevated levels may indicate Diabetes Mellitus or stress. Low levels can cause collapse, seizures or coma.
- K (potassium) is an electrolyte lost with vomiting, diarrhoea or excessive urination. Increased levels may indicate kidney failure, Addison's Disease, dehydration & urethral obstruction. High levels can lead to cardiac arrest & death.
- LIP (lipase) is an enzyme that may indicate pancreatitis when elevated.
- Na (sodium) is an electrolyte lost with vomiting, diarrhoea & kidney or Addison's Disease. This test also helps indicate hydration status.
- PHOS (phosphorus) elevations are often associated with kidney disease, hyperthyroidism & bleeding disorders.
- BIL (total Bilirubin) elevations may indicate liver or haemolytic disease (breakdown of RBC). This test helps identify bile duct problems & certain types of anaemia.
- T.P. (Total Protein) indicates hydration status & provides information about the liver, kidney & infectious diseases.
- T4 (thyroxine) is a thyroid hormone. Decreased levels often signal Hypothyroidism in dogs while high levels indicate Hyperthyroidism in cats. The level can also be decreased by other, concurrent illnesses.

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



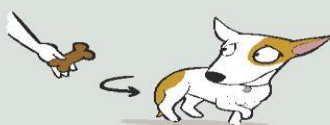
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



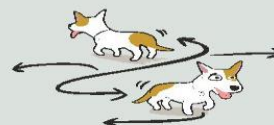
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

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