

CANINE PARVOVIRUS (CPV)

What is CPV and how is it transmitted?

Parvovirus causes vomiting and diarrhoea in dogs and is one of the major infections that dogs can pick up in Hong Kong. The severity and survival rate of the disease is variable. Dogs which do survive can suffer long-term consequences such as chronic diarrhoea and heart disease. The virus attacks quickly growing tissues so pups less than 6 months are especially susceptible. Infection occurs through contact with contaminated faeces which is why it is a common problem in pet-shops. Incubation time (from encountering the virus to developing the disease) is 2-14 days.

Infected dogs excrete the virus in their faeces for approximately 2 weeks post infection. The virus can remain in the environment for years.

What are the signs of CPV?

- Gastro-intestinal. Causes haemorrhagic enteritis (diarrhoea with blood) together with vomiting and dehydration, so can lead to septic/endotoxic shock and death.
- Cardiovascular- myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) can show as sudden death.

Presentation: Sudden onset of bloody diarrhoea/vomiting, decreased appetite, lethargy and fever. Some pups may collapse without the enteric signs.

How is it treated?

Based on controlling the symptoms. The goals are to mollify the intestinal tract, restore and maintain the fluid-electrolyte balance and resolve shock, sepsis and endotoxemia.

Treatment regimes include fluid therapy, anti-vomiting and anti-diarrhoeal drugs, antibiotics and drugs which control endotoxaemia and shock.

The cardiac form often causes sudden death and is not treatable.

How is it prevented?

The risk is reduced by vaccination but NOT eliminated. Vaccination can be started from 6 weeks of age. 2-3 vaccines are normally required (depending on age/breed) followed by annual boosters.

Some breeds are more susceptible (Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, English Springer Spaniels) to parvovirus infection and in these cases the vet may recommend a follow up vaccine for puppies at around 5 months of age.

Vaccines cannot be given to dogs already suffering from the disease.

Other preventative measures include:

- 1) Avoid purchasing dogs from pet-shops or commercial breeders.
- 2) Always have your dog vaccinated at a registered veterinary practice.
- 3) Follow up with annual boosters.
- 4) Multi dog households should have a high hygiene standard- if possible isolate a new puppy for at least 2 weeks (the incubation period).
- 5) Strict sanitation is essential; 1:49 dilution of bleach is a good disinfectant.
- 6) Separate affected dogs and seek prompt veterinary advice.

**PROTECT YOUR COMPANION FROM THIS SERIOUS VIRUS
BY VACCINATING YOUR DOG EVERY YEAR**

犬病毒性腸炎 (CPV)

什麼是犬病毒性腸炎及如何傳染？

犬病毒性腸炎是一種由病毒 CPV 引起的致命傳染病。犬病毒性腸炎在香港很常見，一旦感染並沒有藥物可醫治。這病毒主要影响犬隻身體快速生長的細胞及組織，因此 6 個月大以下的幼犬特別容易受感染。

這病毒主要透過染病狗隻的糞便，在其他狗隻嗅、舐或吞下其糞便時傳播開去。因此，很多在寵物店出售的狗隻會感染到這病毒。

潛伏期由 2-14 日不等，受感染的狗隻可在牠們的糞便排出病毒達 2 星期之久。這病毒很頑強，在環境中可生存數年。

臨床病徵：

包括食慾不振、發燒、嘔吐、嚴重腹瀉(甚至大便帶鮮血)，缺水，血中毒、休克及死亡。亦可影响心臟，導致心肌炎及突然死亡。

治療方法：

由於是病毒的關係，一旦感染並沒有藥物可醫治，只可以依靠狗隻本身的免疫系統去對抗病毒。我們可做的主要是護理。受感染的狗隻通常病情都頗嚴重並需接受深切治療。主要包括：

- 由於嘔吐及嚴重腹瀉會導致缺水及電解質失衡，所以需要在靜脈注射生理鹽水。如有電解質失衡的話便需要補充。
- 藥物用以止嘔及保護腸胃。
- 注射抗生素，以避免受到細菌第二感染及減低血中毒風險。
- 如有需要會注射藥物控制休克。

預防方法：

- 預防一定勝於治療。防疫注射可減低患病的風險及縮短康復時間，但並不能完全排除感染的機會。幼犬視乎年齡需接受 2-3 次疫苗。香港愛護動物協會建議幼犬在 6 星期大接受 DP 疫苗，然後在 8 星期大接受 DHPPi+L 疫苗直至 12 星期大以後，之後每年一次
- 有些狗種 (例如洛威那) 較易受 CPV 感染，你的獸醫會視乎情況建議為牠們在約 5 個月大時再打一次疫苗
- 已受感染的犬隻不可接受疫苗
- 避免在寵物店或不知名的犬隻繁殖者(例如互聯網)購買狗隻。如必須購買應光顧信譽良好的寵物店
- 確保你的犬隻在註冊獸醫接受疫苗，並每年為牠們注射加強劑
- 任何新的幼犬最好跟家中原本有狗隻的分隔最少 2 星期。由於這病毒很頑強的關係，清潔屋企時要用較濃的漂白水 (1 比 49)
- 最後如你家裏最近有狗隻因狗瘟而死亡的話，最少要等一個月才可再養新狗，與此同時要以 1:49 漂白水徹底清潔環境

為保障你狗兒的健康，請每年為牠們注射疫苗