

Minimizing Canine Parvovirus in Kennels

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Parvovirus is the most common viral disease in unvaccinated dogs. It can cost a kennel owner thousands of dollars in lost revenue and treatment costs. To minimize parvo, kennel owners must be **SMART** in the way they vaccinate their puppies. The steps to being vaccine **SMART** are:

1. **Sanitation** programs are needed to minimize exposure to canine parvovirus. This virus is an environmental survivor and not all disinfectants will kill it. Examples of effective disinfectants are bleach, Virkon S and Trifectant. In addition, wash your hands after handling sick dogs and remember that hand sanitizers with 68% ethyl alcohol will not kill canine parvovirus.
2. **Monitor** the temperature where vaccines are stored. Vaccines should always be kept in the refrigerator and stored between 35° and 45° F. Modified live parvo vaccines should be administered within 30 minutes after mixing.
3. **Assure** that an effective vaccine schedule is being followed. It is important not only to consider the number of vaccines that puppies are given, but also the age puppies are vaccinated. Parvo vaccines should start at 6 weeks of age and boosters given every 2-3 weeks. Whether you choose a 2 or 3 week interval will depend on your kennel's risk of exposure to the parvovirus. Kennels that are at high risk should vaccinate every two weeks.
4. **Record** the date of the vaccination as well as the puppy's age. Maternal antibody interference may occur as late as 16 weeks of age and while puppies vaccinated at 6, 8 and 10 weeks have received three vaccines they can still be at risk of catching parvo. Minimize that risk by continuing to give boosters every two to three weeks until puppies are at least 16 weeks of age.
5. **Track** booster shots for each puppy with a vaccination record documenting the date, age and name of vaccine so the new owner knows when additional boosters are necessary.

By taking these **SMART** steps kennel owners can minimize the risk that puppies will get parvo. Remember to overcome maternal antibody interference, start vaccinating puppies when they are 6 weeks old and continue giving boosters every 2-3 weeks until they are at least 16 weeks of age. Refer to the vaccination schedule below to assure all puppies receive their boosters on time and at the proper age.

Recommended Doses	Recommended Age at Vaccination	Basic Vaccination Program	If Lepto is a concern...	If Coronavirus is a concern...	If Coronavirus & Lepto are a concern...
First	6-8 weeks	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 6	Solo-Jec® 6
Second	9-11 weeks	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 6	Solo-Jec® 6
Third	12-14 weeks	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 9	Solo-Jec® 6	Solo-Jec® 10
Fourth	15-17 weeks	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 9	Solo-Jec® 6	Solo-Jec® 10
	Annual Booster	Solo-Jec® 5	Solo-Jec® 9	Solo-Jec® 6	Solo-Jec® 10