M-03 PARVOVIRUS - DOG

**Purpose**

This is to outline the process of avoiding cross contamination, dealing with and treatment when Parvovirus is known/suspected to be present in the facility

**Policy**

At Humane Society of West Michigan, the policy for dogs and puppies with suspected/confirmed canine parvovirus infection will be as follows:

Dogs and puppies with suspected/confirmed canine parvovirus infection:

* Will be admitted to the shelter
* May be treated (determined by veterinary staff)
* May be treated at an off-site location (foster)
* Will be placed for adoption only if/when clinically recovered
* Will be placed for rescue/transfer/transport only if/when clinically recovered

**General Information**

Canine parvovirus is highly contagious, durable in nature and capable of producing sever or life-threatening disease in dogs. Inevitably, canine parvovirus will be introduced into shelters from the surrounding community from time to time.  It is critical that our shelter follows this protocol to appropriately identify and care for infected animals in order to protect other dogs within the shelter.

Puppies less than six months of age are most likely to show severe clinical signs.  However, adult dogs can also be affected. Affected dogs may have mild to severe diarrhea (often bloody), may be dehydrated, lethargic, be anorexic, have vomiting, or can develop severe to fatal secondary bacterial infections.  Young puppies who acquire parvovirus can die without aggressive medical treatment. The virus is shed mainly in feces and is very hardy and can live in the environment for long periods of time without proper disinfection.

**Staff /Areas Affected**

• Animal Care Staff

• All Staff

* All Volunteers

**Definitions**

**Cross Contamination** – the process by which bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another, with harmful effect.

**Responsibilities**

The Director of Animal Care and Behavior is responsible for making sure this process is followed. All staff is responsible for understanding the detrimental impact of cross contamination of any type.

**Procedures**

**Assessing Risk to the Population:**

* When an adult dog is diagnosed with canine parvovirus, in general, only a single kennel-mate is considered at high risk
* When a puppy is diagnosed with canine parvovirus, in general, only littermates are considered at high risk

**Quarantine and Isolation:**

Isolation houses animals who are symptomatic and are or may be infected with a communicable disease.

* Exposed population will require 10 day quarantine without a new case of canine parvovirus in the population.  If any dog is diagnosed during the quarantine, the quarantine will restart
* This shelter does not have the resources for titer testing exposed dogs
* Dogs and puppies with canine parvovirus will be isolated from the general population
* When a canine parvovirus outbreak occurs, the shelter may stop admitting new dogs and puppies

**Treatment:**

* Dogs/puppies with parvovirus are isolated and treated at the shelter

Rapid in-clinic parvovirus tests that use ELISA technology (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) are useful screens for canine parvovirus.  This test utilizes a fecal swab to detect viral antigen, and can be run in 10-15 minutes. Once there has been a confirmed case or suspect Parvovirus contamination the following preventive measures should be followed:

**Vaccination:**

* Vaccinate all dogs at intake.  The modified live Da2PP vaccine is an excellent vaccine that provides fairly rapid protection against viral challenge.
* Dogs over 5 months of age will require a booster of the vaccine in 2-4 week for year-long protection.
* Vaccinate puppies in the shelter starting at four to six weeks of age with a modified live Da2PP vaccine, booster every 2 weeks until they are 18-20 weeks of age.

**Segregation:**

* Segregate ALL puppies by litter and age groups, and always from adults
* Quarantine exposed (animals that have been in contact with sick animals) for two weeks if possible
* Isolate sick animals immediately

**Sanitation:**

Proper sanitation involves thorough cleaning before appropriate disinfecting – *cleaning and disinfecting are not the same thing.*

Cleaning does not kill pathogens, but mechanically removes them or reduces their presence.

 Disinfecting is usually a second step and inactivates the pathogens that were not removed in the cleaning process.  Without proper cleaning and disinfecting, disease can quickly spread. In animal shelters, there are many factors that can contribute to poor sanitation and spread of disease.  Understanding these factors can help to prevent or detect problems in any sanitation program. Whenever the level of disease in a facility increases, reviewing sanitation procedures should be a priority.

* Instruct staff, volunteers and visitors about the dangers of spreading disease via fomites, particularly on hands and clothing
* Clean in order of most susceptible to disease to most likely to spread disease.  In most shelters this means cleaning healthy puppies and moms with puppies, healthy adults, and then unhealthy animals last
* Use disposable toys and food dishes when possible
* Not all disinfectants are parvocidal (kill parvovirus).  Ensure use of a product that is parvocidal
  + Rescue is used for shelter disinfecting along with MicroChem.
  + Bleach will kill canine parvovirus, but only in correct dilutions. Bleach is effective only if there is no organic matter (i.e. dirt, grass, feces, food particles, etc.), which inactivates the bleach.  Once diluted, bleach mixture is effective for 24 hours.
  + The manufacturer’s instructions should be followed for dilution, for application and for required contact time in order for proper disinfection to occur.
* See SOP AC-18 Cross contamination for further information on limiting the spread of disease.

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\*Please note:  This Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) is intended to be used as written and reflects general best practices based upon the information provided by the user.  This SOP is not intended as medical advice or a prescription for treatment of any specific animal, nor to substitute for veterinary advice. By using this tool, you acknowledge and agree that there may also be local and state laws governing the subject matter of this SOP, and the ASPCA cannot be held liable for results of its implementation.

**Reference Documents**

• SOP AC-18 Cross Contamination

**Revision History**

V1 - Created 6/11/18

V2 – Updated 3/11/20