

PARVO, DISTEMPER AND OTHER DEADLY DOG DISEASES ARE EVERYWHERE

It's more important than ever to protect your pets.

Thousands of dogs die each year from parvo, distemper and other diseases. Houston, with its large numbers of roaming and homeless animals, is especially hard hit. What are the best tools for preventing these deadly diseases? Vaccinations, education and awareness!



PARVO

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious viral infection that can be transmitted by contact with an infected dog's feces. The virus can survive for months on inanimate objects like food bowls, floors, shoes, etc. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and lack of appetite. Most cases involve puppies six weeks to six months old but it can occur in older dogs. Sam and Dave, the puppies in the picture, had parvo. Sam survived but Dave did not.



DISTEMPER

Canine distemper is a highly contagious virus transmitted through the air by coughing and by bodily secretions like urine. Dogs can get it at any age but puppies less than six months old are most at risk. Common signs are nasal and eye discharge, coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, fever and seizures. Foster, the puppy in the picture, already had distemper when he was rescued and died soon after.



BACKYARD BREEDERS

People who buy dogs at pet stores or flea markets should be especially careful. Puppy mills and unlicensed backyard breeders can be a source of diseases, which spread easily and are hard to control once animals and the premises are infected. BUYER BEWARE and don't make a costly mistake: don't buy a cute puppy that may be infected with a deadly disease. Instead, adopt a vetted and vaccinated puppy from a rescue group.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT PARVO OR DISTEMPER?

Vaccinate your dog! Early vaccinations of puppies and follow up boosters are the best tools for prevention. Also, never buy a dog, especially from at a flea market or from a backyard breeder. There are plenty of vaccinated, spayed or neutered healthy rescue dogs who need a loving home. For more information, contact us at info@barriodogs.org or go to www.barriodogs.org.

