

Parvovirus outbreak - guard your puppies!

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Oftentimes people want to show off their new puppy - but that can be a fatal mistake.

"If you love your pup, keep them home until they've had all three or four rounds of puppy shots," said long-time veterinarian Dr. Joe Hoelzle, owner of Dr. Joe's Animal Hospital in Cave Junction.

"Parvo season is here and there's been many cases in the valley," said veterinary assistant Mel Boie, who works at Dr. Joe's.

"Parvovirus primarily affects dogs under a year old," Hoelzle said.

"It's transmitted through feces and can survive in the environment for a minimum of six months, and, while older dogs might not show clinical signs of the diseases, they could still be shedding virus and be contagious."

Boie said if people absolutely must take an unvaccinated dog away from home, to carry it and keep it away from public areas or high traffic areas until they're fully vaccinated - especially puppies.

"Kennel cough is going around right now too," Boie added, "so if your dog has been coughing, call your vet's office. This is so easily spread from dog-to-dog."

Boie explained how disease

outbreaks seem to "come in waves. So if you interact in dog walking groups, or go to dog parks, or you're basically interacting with any dogs besides the ones in your home, then your dog is vulnerable to catching these diseases."

Most dog owners give their pets a "5-in-1" vaccine to prevent distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and parvovirus. Many also choose to vaccinate their pets against Lyme disease and bordetella (kennel cough).

The kennel cough virus causes an extremely contagious upper respiratory infection, and Boie says if your dog goes places where other dogs also go, that this vaccination is

important as well.

Parvo is an extremely fast-acting viruses that can change everything in a matter of hours. Experts at the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) say most deaths from parvo occur within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs.

Parvo affects dogs' gastrointestinal tracts and symptoms indicating your dog could be dealing with it might include: lethargy; loss of appetite; abdominal pain and bloating; fever or low body temperature; vomiting; and severe (often bloody) diarrhea.

Some

people think they can treat parvo at home, but this is usually doesn't work out very well for the dog. Also, the virus is easily transmitted, and Boie said just walking through one's home, if contaminated, then walking through town, means you're readily spreading it. The virus contaminates food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands, shoes and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. Bleach is the only thing that kills the virus.

SEE PARVO ON A-9

The Cougars take control of Lakeview at home

Jonah Ormonde
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The Lady Cougars' basketball team walked into the gym this Friday 3-0 in their conference after beating the Crater Lake Loggers 46-16 Wednesday. Both teams started off slow with the Lakeview Honkers being the first to score two minutes into the first quarter. However, The I.V. girls took the lead as the game went on, coming into the second quarter 7-4.

"This game we took our time with the ball; we played it like it was our game

and that was the only way we were going to play it," said senior forward Alaurah Tallman. The Lady Honkers kept up throughout the second quarter but couldn't catch the Cougars as they headed into the half with a score of 14-10.

"Every single home game we are nervous, but our nerves push us more than we think. Once we realize that we are the bigger and better team, we start winning," said Tallman. In the third quarter both teams ramped up their offense as the score shot up to 24-21, but Lakeview still couldn't catch the I.V. girls.

The Honkers closed the

game with six minutes left in the fourth with a score of 25-23, but then the Cougars brought the score to 31-23 less than two minutes later. "When we play relaxed, we play our best and that kept us going," Lakeview continued to fall behind during the fourth quarter as they tried to waste time using fouls, but the Lady Cougars were not missing their shots. Lakeview racked up 12 fouls and lost with a final score of 39-27. Tallman finished with 15 points - the highest score on the team.

The I.V. boys' basketball team also won that night,

with a final score of 65-50. However, both teams didn't have as much success the next day as they traveled to Lost River. The Lost River boys' team was 4-0 and the I.V. boys lost 56-34. The Lost River girls' team was 3-0 and the I.V. girls ended up losing 35-27.

The next two teams the Cougars face are Rogue River Friday, Jan. 31 at home and then travel to Glide Saturday, Feb. 1.

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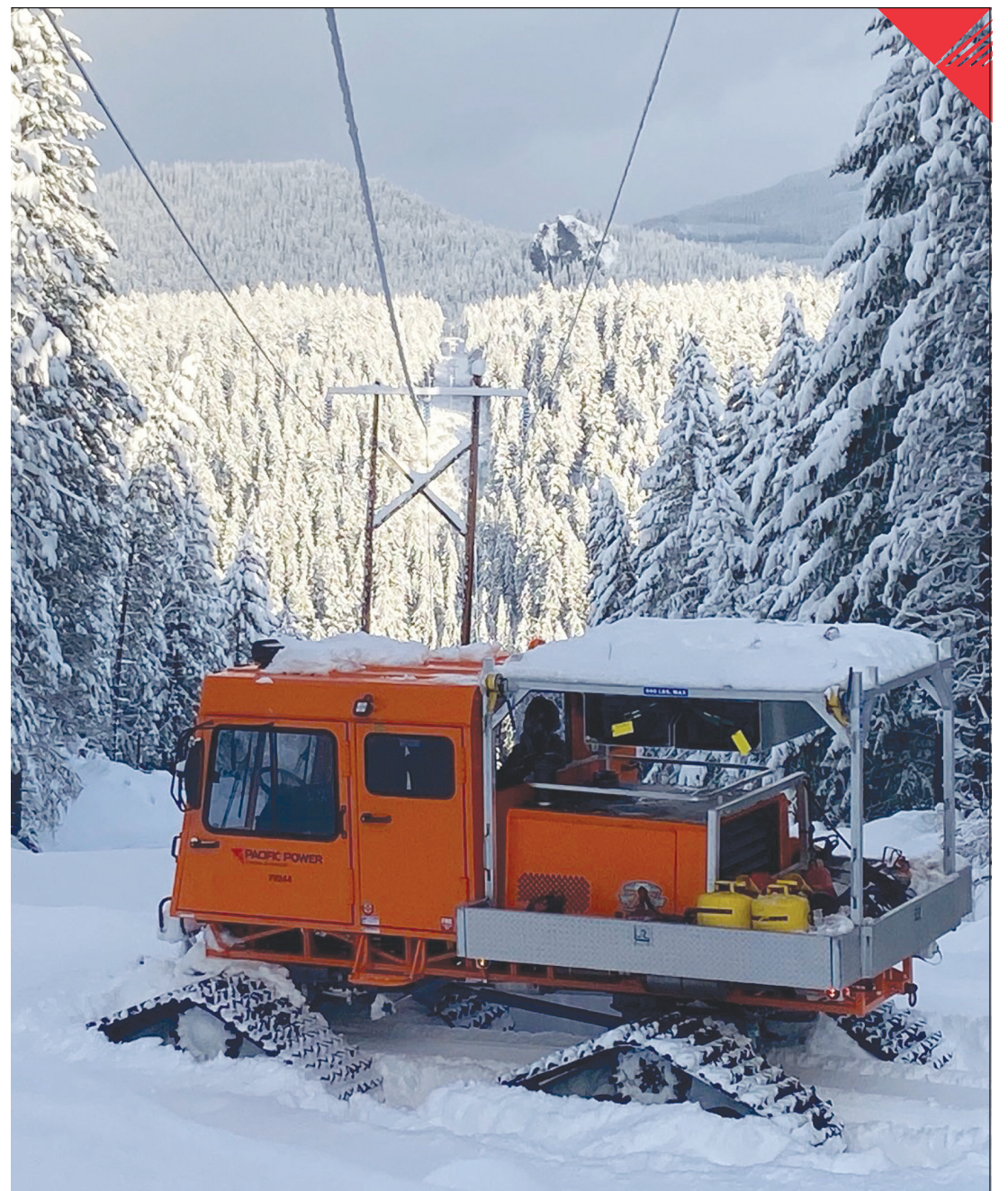
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