

Parvovirus has been confirmed in Washington County canines

A joint coalition of metropolitan area animal services organizations from Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, the Oregon State Public Health Veterinarian, and the Humane Society for Southwest Washington are alerting dog owners to protect their puppies and dogs by making sure their

pets get the canine parvovirus vaccine.

Several cases of canine parvovirus have been confirmed recently at the Washington County shelter in Hillsboro. Shelters in Clackamas and Multnomah counties have also seen parvovirus cases in the recent past. Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has not seen any cases of parvovirus in the last three years and uses an aggressive cleaning and sterilization program to help keep disease down in their population.

"Parvovirus is a highly contagious and could be a deadly virus in puppies that have not been protected with the vaccine. It is a very serious disease," said Dr. DeBess, the Oregon State Public Health Veterinarian. Parvovirus most commonly attacks puppies less than six-months-old and dogs that have never been vaccinated. Puppies and dogs can contract and spread the disease when they come in contact with the feces of an infected dog. It can also be tracked by shoes and other fomites. DeBess advises that if your puppy is not vaccinated for parvovirus, call your veterinarian and make an appointment to get the dog vaccinated and protect it.

If dog owners see symptoms of lethargy, lack of appetite, fever, vomiting, severe diarrhea, or dehydration in their dogs, they should contact a veterinarian immediately.

Certain breeds appear to be

at greater risk, such as Rotweilers, Doberman Pinschers, and Labrador retrievers.

Vaccinating puppies and dogs is vital. "It is also vital to use the best vaccine in the market to protect your dog," said DeBess. Vaccinations should begin at six to eight weeks of age with follow-up booster shots. To protect adult dogs, the pet owner should check with the dog's veterinarian to ensure that its parvovirus vaccination is up-to-date.

Until a puppy receives its complete series of parvovirus shots, owners should use caution when bringing their dogs to kennels, pet shops, parks, obedience classes, dog daycare, and grooming shops.

Area animal shelters practice strict hygiene and infection control protocol. In Washington County's Bonnie L. Hays Small

Animal Shelter, where the diseased dogs were recently impounded, the staff disinfected all inside kennels and floors and outside grounds. The animal shelter in Hillsboro closed its dog adoption center for several days and placed all dogs in isolation to reduce exposure.

"The parvovirus is everywhere in our general environment," said Washington County

Animal Services manager Gary Hendel. "Every stray dog has the potential to bring it into the shelter." The parvovirus can remain infectious in ground contaminated with fecal matter for five months or more if conditions are favorable. "Owners need to protect their pets from this horrible but preventable disease," said Hendel.

Don't miss the Easter egg hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt, presented by the Vernonia Community PTA, will be held at Hawkins Park, Saturday, April 7.

The hunt is for children ages zero to 10 and starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

Bring your camera for photos with the Easter Bunny!!

WEATHER REPORT

FEBRUARY 2007

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI	LO	PRECIP. AMT.
1	51	23	--
2	51	19	--
3	38	23	.20
4	60	35	.03
5	56	34	--
6	53	33	T
7	49	37	.14
8	51	36	.18
9	56	41	--
10	51	42	.11
11	51	39	.07
12	52	38	.03
13	53	36	--
14	45	36	.20
15	51	43	.60
16	51	44	.12
17	59	42	.13
18	47	37	.15
19	47	37	.95
20	49	34	.14
21	49	32	.06
22	47	36	.14
23	44	37	.31
24	43	39	.80
25	46	34	.42
26	42	32	.11
27	42	30	.72
28	41	31	.88

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in February totalled 6.49 inches.



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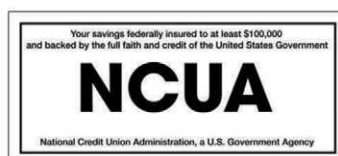
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