



# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW DOG!

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[www.EPAnimalServices.com](http://www.EPAnimalServices.com) | (915) 212-PAWS

Congratulations on finding a new furry family member! We at El Paso Animal Services have worked very hard to ensure the health of your dog. During your dog's intake exam, we vaccinated for Distemper, Parvo, Bordetella, and Rabies if old enough. However, illness is still commonly found in the shelter environment. Here is some information about the three most common illnesses and how you can help your newly adopted dog recover to lead a normal, healthy, happy life.

1. We recommend that all newly adopted dogs receive a routine health check by your personal veterinarian within the first few days of adoption.
2. If your dog develops a hacking cough, discharge from the eyes or nose, lethargy or loss of appetite, you should make an appointment with your veterinarian.
3. At the time of your adoption, Adoption Staff provided information regarding the 24PetWatch Pet Insurance Program. El Paso Animal Services provides the first 30 days of 24PetWatch Pet Insurance coverage, but you **must enroll within seven days of the adoption**. You should receive an email within 24 hours with enrollment instructions.

El Paso Animal Services offers **limited** medical treatment within the first seven days of adoption. If your new dog exhibits any of the below described illnesses within the first week of adoption, please notify Adoption Staff immediately so that we can have your dog seen by our Shelter Veterinarian between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm. To schedule an appointment with our Shelter Veterinarian during this time, please call:

**(915) 212-8705**

## Parvo

1. Parvovirus is highly contagious and is spread by exposure of infected feces. Unfortunately, dogs from shelters have often been exposed to Parvovirus and should be closely observed for 14 days after adoption to make sure they are not incubating the virus.
2. There is some risk that a dog incubating Parvovirus will infect other dogs, specifically those that are not protected through vaccination. Your new dog and its feces should be kept away from puppies and unvaccinated dogs for at least two weeks.

3. Symptoms of Parvo include, but are not limited, to lethargy, vomiting, weakness, fever, loss of appetite, and bloody foul-smelling diarrhea that can lead to life threatening dehydration.
4. If you suspect your dog has Parvo, make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible. The earlier the infection is diagnosed and treated, the more likely it will recover.

## **Distemper**

1. Distemper is a very contagious viral infection that affects the gastrointestinal, respiratory, and central nervous systems in dogs. Nasal discharge containing the virus is easily spread by sneezing.
2. Signs of illness include, but are not limited to, lethargy, reduced appetite, fever, respiratory issues, thick nasal discharge, vomiting and diarrhea. In severe cases the virus may enter the brain and cause the dog to develop neurological signs such as blindness, tics or incoordination.
3. There is no specific treatment for distemper; the treatment is symptomatic and supportive. Supportive care can treat fluid / electrolyte imbalances, neurological symptoms, and prevention of secondary infections. Prevention through vaccination is the most reliable way of preventing disease spread among the dog population.

## **Kennel Cough**

1. Kennel cough is common and contagious, but rarely fatal. The disease is caused by bacteria and/or virus that is spread among dogs in the shelter. Kennel cough is easily spread therefore it is as common in animal shelters as the common cold is in a daycare center.
2. There are vaccines that prevent or reduce the severity, but giving these to an already infected animal will not help the animal recover any quicker.
3. Kennel cough can be managed at home in a quiet, stress-free environment. If necessary, your veterinarian may also use antibiotics to treat the kennel cough.
4. Severe, untreated cases of kennel cough can develop into pneumonia so it is important that you discuss kennel cough with your veterinarian.
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