



# NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.  
PARISH PRESIDENT

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## Animal Shelter Reacts to Parvo Outbreak

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter has confirmed 12 cases of Parvo at the Westbank Animal Shelter, 1869 Ames Boulevard in Marrero. All of the infected dogs and puppies have been euthanized.

Animal Shelter staff has begun a careful cleaning and disinfecting of the facility. Special training for the staff to step-up sanitizing protocol has begun. The Westbank Animal Shelter will close Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to complete this thorough cleaning procedure. The Westbank Animal Shelter will reopen Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Vaccinated, healthy dogs at the shelter are isolated, and staff members are taking extra precautions to prevent further spread of the virus. Adoptions for dogs and puppies are temporarily unavailable at the Westbank Animal Shelter, but the shelter is open for the adoption of cats and kittens. Full adoption services are available at the Eastbank Animal Shelter located at #1 Humane Way in Jefferson.

Dogs and puppies receive vaccinations as soon as they are brought into the shelter. However, Parvo can have an incubation period of several weeks. If a dog or puppy already has Parvo when it is brought in, it potentially can infect other dogs and puppies before there are visible symptoms. Animal Shelter staff is making sure all vaccinations are current.

Parvo is a highly contagious, potentially fatal virus that most commonly infects puppies. Adult dogs can contract Parvo, as well.

Symptoms of Parvo include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, dehydration, and bloody diarrhea. At the first sign of any of these symptoms, see your Veterinarian immediately.

The best way to protect your pets from this disease is to make sure they are vaccinated. Parvo poses no threat to humans.

For additional information, please contact Diane Guichard, Interim Director of the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter at 736-6111.

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