

# News Release

## Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Issued by: Patricia Borne  
Public Information Officer



### Our Mission Is:

“Provide the services, leadership, and vision to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish.”

**Steve J. Theriot**  
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2010

### VACCINATE YOUR PUPPIES AND DOGS FROM PARVO

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter is encouraging **all** pet owners to make sure their pets are properly vaccinated after the two parish shelters confirmed several cases of canine parvovirus. The disease, sometimes known simply as 'parvo,' is serious and contagious. This virus is spread when dogs come into contact with the feces of infected animals. Parvo is a cyclical disease, and when found in the area animal shelters, it will also be found in the community.

Symptoms of parvo include diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, lack of appetite, and bloody, foul-smelling stools. The dog may also have a high fever and may become dehydrated. Immediate medical care is required to improve the chances of recovery.

To prevent infection, dogs and puppies must be vaccinated. Puppies require a series of vaccinations. **The Animal Shelter strongly encourages pet owners to vaccinate pets for their own well-being as well as for the well-being of all pets in the community.** If you are uncertain of your pet's vaccination status, we encourage you to consult with your veterinarian. If you suspect your dog has contracted the Parvo virus, contact your veterinarian immediately and keep your dog confined, away from other dogs.

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelters detected the Parvo virus early before the occurrence of a major outbreak. However, to ensure the health and safety of all animals, the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter will cease adoptions of dogs and puppies until Friday, February 19. Cats and kittens will continue to be available for adoption.

For more information contact, Tiffany Peperone, Interim Director of the Animal Shelter, at 736-6111.

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