

CANINE DISTEMPER

Definition: Canine distemper is a highly contagious, systemic, viral disease of dogs.

Transmission: Infected dogs shed the virus through bodily secretions and excretions; but the main route of infection is through respiratory secretions via aerosol droplets secreted from infected animals (airborne viral particles that dogs breathe in). Some infected dogs may shed virus for several months after symptoms disappear, but they no longer shed the virus once they are fully recovered.

Symptoms: The initial symptom is fever (103 to 106 degrees F), which usually peaks 3-6 days after infection. Dogs may experience eye and nose discharge, depression and loss of appetite (anorexia). Other symptoms may include gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms such as; diarrhea, pneumonia (cough, labored breathing) and vomiting. Dogs left untreated invariably develop encephalomyelitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord). Distemper is often mistaken for a common bacterial infection in dogs called Bordetella because of the respiratory similarities.

Prevention: Young puppies between 3 and 6 months of age are most susceptible to infection and are more likely to die than infected adults. Non-immunized older dogs are also highly susceptible to infection and disease. Non-immunized dogs that have contact with other non-immunized dogs or with wild carnivores have a greater risk of developing canine distemper as well.

A commonly used vaccine used is the Distemper-Parvo combination. It includes: Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptosporosis, Parainfluenza and Parvo virus. It is given to puppies at 6-8 wks of age as an initial stimulus of antibodies and is given two more times at 2-3 week intervals for a complete series of 3. The vaccine is then given annually to maintain antibodies.

Vaccination and routine vet exams are the best possible prevention to this disease as well as others. Below is a list of local vets who may be contacted if there are any questions.

Oroville

Look Ahead Veterinary Services534-0722
Butte Oroville Veterinary Hospital533-1194
Dent Animal Hospital.....533-0521
Oroville Animal Health Center533-7513
Oro Dam Veterinary Hospital533-3776

Chico

Acacia Veterinary Hospital345-1338
Erickson Veterinary Hospital343-5856
Chico Animal Hospital342-0518
Forest Animal Hospital345-7292
Evers Veterinary Clinic343-0713
Animal Medical Clinic343-1234
Animal Health Care Clinic898-9172
Mangrove Veterinary Hospital891-4818
Chico Hospital for Cats.....892-2287

Paradise /Magalia

Whispering Pines Pet Clinic 873-1136
Animal Hospital on the Ridge 877-3000
Colyer Veterinary Hospital 872-3246
Magalia Pet Hospital..... 877-1942
Paradise Veterinary Clinic 877-3468
Skyway Pet Hospital 877-4153
Companions Animal Hospital 872-2345

Gridley/Live Oak

Gridley Veterinary Hospital 846-6212
Milbradt Veterinary Hospital 695-8500

Orland/Durham

Orland Veterinary Hospital 865-4478
Durham Veterinary Clinic..... 891-5707

**Information on Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)
and DHLPP Vaccine**

Low cost vaccination clinics in Oroville Area:

1st Saturday of Each Month:

Butte Oroville Vet Hospital
751 Oro Dam Blvd.
530-533-1194

Rabies \$11 and DHLPP \$17

Hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

3rd Saturday of Each Month:

Dent Animal Hospital
750 Oro Dam Blvd. - West
530-533-0521

Rabies \$9 & DHLPP-C \$18

Hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

2nd Saturday of Each Month:

Oro Dam Vet
2620 Olive Highway
530-533-3776

Rabies \$8 DHLPP-C \$16.50

Hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

(Cat shots also available at clinic prices.)