

Cleaning and Disinfection

Canine Parvovirus (CPV, “Parvo”); Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)

Important Points:

Canine Parvovirus (CPV, “parvo”) and Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPL, “panleuk”) can survive in the environment for months to years. Proper cleaning and disinfection are the only ways to remove these viruses. Clean first, then disinfect. The current “best” recommendation is to use an accelerated hydrogen peroxide disinfectant, if available. The judicious use of bleach can also be effective as a disinfectant against these viruses. Bleach, although inexpensive, is irritating to respiratory passages of people and animals and can cause corrosion of equipment. Avoid using quaternary ammonium compounds.

Remember that recovering animals will shed these viruses for at least 14 days beyond recovery. Talk to your veterinarian about vaccination to prevent CPV and FPL.

Canine Parvovirus (CPV) and Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV):

CPV causes vomiting and diarrhea in young or unvaccinated dogs. FPV signs include fever, depression, lethargy and collapse in young or unvaccinated cats. Both of these parvoviruses cause severe immunodepression of the infected animal. These viruses are hardy and will survive in your home and yard for months to years unless removed with cleaning and disinfection. All items the infected animal had contact with should be cleaned then disinfected. This includes crates, bedding, flooring, vehicles, bowls, litter boxes, etc.

Recovering animals will continue to shed CPV and FPL for at least 14 days beyond the resolution of their illness. Sick and recovering animals should remain in a limited area and should not visit places where other animals frequent, including dog parks, boarding or daycare facilities, pet stores, other homes, etc. to avoid contaminating those areas with the virus. Feces should be removed and disposed of promptly.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Instructions:

1. Remove all animals from the area to be cleaned and disinfected.
2. Remove all organic material from the surfaces to be cleaned and disinfected. This includes fur, dirt, leaves, grass, and feces.
3. Use soap and hot water to clean the area and equipment, then allow to dry.
4. Choose a disinfectant. Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP, Rescue, Oxivir) and products in the bleach family (bleach, Wysiwash, Bruclean) can inactivate CPV and FPV.
 - a. AHP is effective on both non-porous (metal, sealed floors) and porous surfaces (wood, scratched plastic, unsealed concrete, carpet, bedding). AHP is effective in the presence of residual organic material.
 - b. Bleach products may pose greater safety risks to humans and animals compared to AHP. Bleach products are corrosive to surfaces, particularly when used long-term. Bleach products do not work if any organic material is present. Bleach products are not a good choice for porous surfaces.

- c. Avoid quaternary ammonium compound disinfectants. In animal environments, highly effective disinfectants are necessary. Repeated studies have shown that quaternary ammonium compound disinfectants are not as effective against parvoviruses, despite label claims of efficacy.
5. Apply the disinfectant following all label instructions.
 - a. Make sure to select an effective product for the surface in question
 - b. Use the proper concentration of disinfectant
 - c. The surface should stay wet with disinfectant for a specific minimum length of time specified on the label for parvovirus (usually 10 minutes)
 - d. Follow all safety instructions
 - e. Do not mix different disinfectants together
6. Rinse and allow the area to dry.
 - a. Perpetually wet areas or areas not allowed to dry are extremely difficult to disinfect.

Prevention:

Vaccination can be highly effective in preventing CPV and FPV. Please discuss vaccination strategies with your veterinarian.

For dogs and puppies: <https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/vaccination-recommendations-for-general-practice/>

For cats and kittens: <https://catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/aafp-aaha-feline-vaccination>