

Dog Illnesses & Symptoms

Dogs are susceptible to deadly and disabling diseases. As the responsible human, it's necessary to understand and prevent these life-threatening illnesses. Most of these diseases are preventable but extremely difficult to treat. Many diseases are airborne and/or can be transported via clothing or by insects and birds. The most important thing a pet owner can do, after vaccinating, is to be observant.



Here are the most common canine illnesses and symptoms to watch for ... if you detect any signs, consult your veterinarian immediately:

Parvovirus is one of the most deadly viral illnesses of our canine friends. Dogs of all ages are affected but puppies will have a more severe form of the illness. Symptoms include a sudden onset of vomiting, weight loss, dehydration, diarrhea that can become bloody and death.

Distemper is yet another common and deadly viral infection of dogs. Puppies are most susceptible but distemper does strike adult canines, too. Symptoms include nasal and eye discharges, loss of appetite, fever and sneezing. Advanced distemper causes severe diarrhea, cough due to pneumonia, paralysis and convulsions.

Rabies is a serious and fatal illness of most mammals. The infection is spread by the bite of another infected animal. Symptoms include unusual behavior, unprovoked attacks and foaming at the mouth.

Canine Coronavirus is a common and contagious viral illness to dogs that can cause disease by itself or along with canine parvovirus. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and weight loss.

Bordatella is a bacterium that can, along with other viruses or by itself, cause respiratory tract disease in dogs known as "kennel cough". Symptoms include eye and nasal discharges and a loud, harsh cough or hack.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis (ICH) is a virus that causes a contagious form of hepatitis in dogs. Symptoms include weakness, loss of appetite, cough, and eye and nasal discharges. As ICH advances, gums and other mucus membranes may turn yellow and death can occur.

Lyme Disease is caused by bacteria transmitted by ticks. Symptoms include loss of appetite, pain when moving, fever, lameness and lymph node enlargement.