



Countryside Animal Hospital



PAW Prints

Summer 2021



Doctor's Notes

Why Parvovirus Protection Is Critical

Parvovirus is a lethal virus spread through the feces of infected dogs. It's one of the diseases we are most concerned about in puppies and immune suppressed dogs. Parvo especially preys on unvaccinated puppies and adolescent dogs, which is why we recommend restricting your pup from public outdoor areas until their vaccination series is completed. Disinfecting an area where the virus has been present can be extremely difficult, and in warmer climates, the virus can survive up to a year in the environment.

This highly contagious virus spreads through contact with an infected dog, a contaminated object or surface, or even when a puppy sniffs infected feces. Parvovirus has a three- to seven-day incubation period before the puppy appears obviously ill. The virus first sets up in the lymph nodes in the throat of an infected dog and quickly replicates in large numbers. Within a couple of days, significant amounts of the virus have been released into the bloodstream. Within three to four days, the virus seeks new organs to infest, such as bone marrow and delicate intestinal cells.

When Parvovirus is left untreated, it results in death in 50% of cases. Diarrhea and vomiting lead to extreme fluid loss and dehydration. The virus attacks intestinal cells and the intestinal barrier is compromised, allowing bacteria to invade the entire body. A puppy diagnosed with Parvovirus must be isolated, hospitalized, and treated with IV fluids and antibiotics.

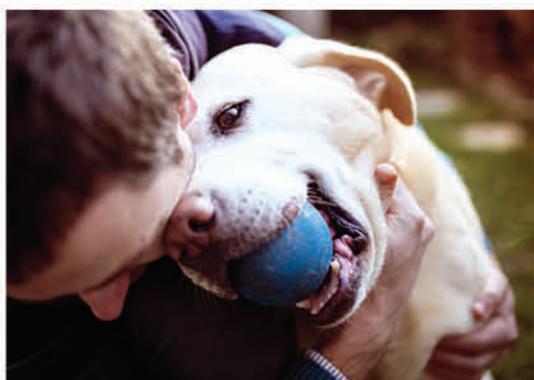
Prevention is the most important thing to remember about Parvovirus. We will recommend a specific vaccine protocol for your new puppy to boost his defenses against Parvo and other diseases in his first few months. Be sure to keep them isolated from unvaccinated dogs until the series is complete. Our PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plans for puppies include the core vaccines your fur-baby will need. Be sure to ask us how you can save on your puppy's care with this plan!



Canine Vision

What Does Your Dog See?

Ever wondered what your dog sees? In human terms, they would be considered near-sighted and color-blind. Scientists now believe that dogs see color in a way similar to a person who has red-green color blindness. The colors they see best are blue and yellow, while reds and greens are difficult for them to detect. He may prefer blue toys over red, and may be obsessed with the yellow tennis ball!



Canines are also near-sighted. A human with 20/20 vision is said to have perfect eyesight, while dogs typically have 20/75 vision. This means that they need to be 20 feet from an object to see it as well as a human would at 75 feet. Some breeds, however, are thought to have better eyesight than others. Labrador Retrievers are an example.

A dog's vision does have some advantages over human vision. They are able to see in low light much better than humans can. They also have greater peripheral vision because of the wider placement of their eyes. Still, dogs are less dependent on vision than are humans. They rely on their exceptional sense of smell and superior hearing to perceive the world around them.

Myth or Truth?

Common Feline Fallacies



- Cats like to be left alone.** Many people believe it's okay to leave cats home alone for a couple of days. Not so. They look forward to your company even if they don't react to your homecoming like dogs do, and they can suffer separation anxiety.
- Indoor cats can't catch diseases.** Indoor cats are exposed to disease through airborne illnesses, anything you bring in on your shoes or clothing, and from ingesting insects.
- Cats always land on their feet.** Not always. Landing the wrong way can result in sprains, bone fractures and respiratory issues.
- Cats can have milk.** Many cats get diarrhea from milk, and too much can lead to obesity. Save the milk for your cereal!
- Cats eat only what they need and won't overeat.** Not so! Obesity is increasing among cats. Be sure to feed them proper portions to maintain a healthy weight.
- Pregnant women should avoid cats.** It's safe for pregnant women to interact with cats—it's the litter box that's a no-no. Toxoplasmosis can be spread through their feces.
- Cats have nine lives.** Cats have only one life and need regular checkups, vaccines, and dental care to live out their days in good health!

You can take the mystery out of veterinary costs with one of our PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plans for cats! Ask us for details.

Practice News

Meet Dr. Smith!

Dr. Phalen Smith was born in Eastern Oregon, spent 5 years in Boise, Idaho, then moved to Phoenix when she was 12 years old. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University in Agribusiness. She then graduated from Colorado State University in 2009 with her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. She has been practicing in the East Valley since that time and joined us at Countryside in March of 2021.

Dr. Smith enjoys many aspects of Small Animal General Practice including Surgery, Dentistry, Internal Medicine (especially endocrine diseases), Dermatology, and Geriatric Care. She is a Fear Free Certified Practitioner and strives to help prevent and alleviate the fear, stress, and anxiety that her patients, both cats and dogs alike, may experience in the veterinary hospital.

Outside of work, Dr. Smith enjoys spending time in the great outdoors with her husband and young son. Camping, hiking and visiting any beach are a few favorites. She enjoys reading suspense and mystery novels as well. Dr. Smith shares her home with her two dogs and three cats.



We're all happy to have her as part of our Countryside team! Be sure to say hello to Dr. Smith when you visit us.



Call us at (480) 775-9966 today to make an appointment!

Tick-Borne Diseases

Protect Your Pets from Menacing Parasites

Ticks can do much more than just irritate your pet. Tick-borne diseases include:

Lyme Disease. Caused by bacteria carried by the deer tick, symptoms include lameness, swollen lymph nodes and joints, appetite loss, and fever. Severe cases can result in heart conditions, kidney disease, or nervous system disorders.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Transmitted by the Rocky Mountain spotted fever tick and the American dog tick, symptoms include depression, joint pain, lameness, stumbling, appetite loss, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. Severe cases can lead to pneumonia, kidney failure, liver damage, heart abnormalities, and seizures.

Ehrlichiosis. This disease is caused by a rickettsial organism carried by the brown dog tick and the Lone Star Tick. Symptoms include depression, reduced appetite, bruising, painful joints, and fever.

Anaplasmosis. The bacteria that cause canine anaplasmosis are transmitted by deer ticks and western black-legged ticks. Another form is carried by the brown dog tick that affects both dogs and cats. Signs of anaplasmosis include joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and nervous system disorders.

Tick paralysis. This serious condition is caused by a toxin secreted by ticks, which affects the nervous system. Symptoms begin about a week after the animal is first bitten. It begins with weakness in the rear legs and eventually all four limbs, followed by difficulty breathing and swallowing. Death can result if the condition progresses.

Parasites can cause several serious health problems for your pet, so be sure to ask us about flea and tick preventatives.



Summer's here! Stay cool. Stay safe.

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yearly routine
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costs plus take
advantage of
significant savings
with PAW Plans.**

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help you find a plan
that's just right for
you and your pet.**



**Countryside
Animal Hospital**

8701 S. Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

www.countrysideanimal.com



Call (480) 775-9966
today to make your appointment!



Summer
enjoy every moment



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