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How My Puppy Survived Parvo

By Linda Townsend

For those who have dogs, you know that Canine Parvovirus is not something you want your dog ever to get. It is deadly and quick. Just a day or two or even as little as a few hours after symptoms are recognized as severe, the dog can die from dehydration. The treatment is usually a week in veterinarian care costing between $800 to $2,000 and usually less than 50% of the dogs, even with professional care, will make it. Dog owners are told the *responsible* thing to do is get all the puppy vaccines for Parvo.

For those who do not have dogs, you are probably wondering how this topic could be relevant to you. I have long been an advocate against vaccinations of all kinds, but until I was faced with the *so-called* preventable and deadly Parvovirus, my convictions had not been truly tested.

What is Canine Parvo?

Until 1978, there was nothing called Canine Parvovirus. It is believed that it was a mutated strain of Feline Distemper that jumped species. It was so contagious that Parvo spread within two years to effect all canines around the globe, including wild dogs like wolves, foxes, and dingos. It can affect dogs at any age, but the most susceptible are puppies and senior canines.

Parvo itself is a virus that attacks the villi of the small intestines impairing the absorption of nutrients. The body, trying to rid itself of the problem, responds by drawing too much of the body's fluids to the intestines to flush out the virus. This is evident by vomiting and diarrhea, which actually becomes projectile in nature on both ends. Blood is usually in the stool as well. By the time symptoms show up, the virus has the upper hand. The virus itself rarely is the cause of death, but rather it is the dehydration. The dog will not eat or even drink on its own and becomes lethargic, usually with a fever.

Because it is a virus, a vaccine has been developed, but antibiotics are ineffective. Veterinarians recommend that puppies receive a minimum of three vaccines for Parvo, but I have heard of many vets recommending four.

Some little known facts that have surfaced about Parvo is that 28% of vaccinated puppies still get Parvo and it kills a higher percentage of vaccinated puppies than unvaccinated. So, it comes down to two choices and their possibilities:

1. Vaccinate and your dog *may* be less likely to suffer from Parvo, although 28% still get it (like our first German Shepherd), but be aware that the dog is more likely to die from it and, if it survives, is more likely to suffer detrimental long-term health effects.
2. Do not vaccinate and your dog will most likely get Parvo, but some research shows that as high as 95% are more likely to survive it, which can be possible without expensive vet bills and with less risk of long-term consequences. You can read more about the research, percentages, and specifics of the home care treatment at *dogsnaturallymagazine.com* and *wolfcreekranch1.tripod.com/heal_parvo.html*.

Our First Experience with Parvo

Just under twenty years ago, our first German Shepherd, Sasha, got Parvo between his first vaccine, which was done by the breeder, and before he would have been scheduled for the next round, which we were not planning on doing anyway. We had no prior experience with Parvo, did not even know much about it, but we have made a point to know a great deal about it since.

When Sasha first began having symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea, I gave him homeopathic remedies for diarrhea for a couple of days, thinking that was all it was. Sasha's symptoms improved, he even started eating and drinking on his own and had energy, but either I stopped the treatment too soon or was not aggressive enough with it because he relapsed. Before I knew it, he had projectile diarrhea and vomiting the next morning, and by the afternoon he was so dehydrated that he could not stand up.

We had a vet, now retired and moved away, who combined holistic with conventional medicine. When he took one look at Sasha, he recommended for us to put him down saying he was just too far along. We asked what would be done if we had brought him in at the first signs: IV with vitamins and electrolytes, as well as some antibiotics that would only fight against secondary bacterial infections, not the virus itself. We asked him to start treatment and told him we would be back in the morning. I began researching Parvo, but there was very little in alternatives at that time. I did find a few mentions of colloidal silver, which I had some experience with for other things, like feline distemper which is a very similar virus to Parvo.

The next day I brought a bottle of 10 ppm colloidal silver. The vet was unfamiliar with it yet open to trying it (probably because he thought the dog was a goner anyway). He said Sasha would not keep it down orally. I told him I understood that and I wanted it injected under the skin. He did his muscle testing as he did for homeopathics and herbal treatments. The dosage was to be 5cc three times a day, which he mentioned was a lot, but then it is not a concentrate like most medicines being only 10 parts per million. He gave Sasha the first dose while I was there that Saturday. The office was closed in the afternoon and the next day, but I got through to one of the caretakers on Sunday. Not only was Sasha still alive, but he had pulled out his IV twice by noon that day, and they reported that he was up barking, eating, tipping over his food dish, and biting at the cage—he always hated being penned.

I went to see Sasha on Monday morning. He was energetic and ready to go home, but the vet wanted to see a stool and since there was nothing much in him that took another day. Everyone at the vet's office called him the miracle puppy. Even the vet admitted he had never seen any dog recuperate from Parvo so quickly and rarely ever at all; the only thing he had done differently was the colloidal silver.

Our Latest Experience with Parvo

When we decided to adopt Mishka last September, I began looking into home treatments for Parvo, knowing that it was inevitable that our puppy would be exposed to it regardless of how careful we were to avoid where other dogs go. It was not a matter of "if" but "when" and the older Mishka gets, the better. At about 15 weeks old, the Parvo symptoms began, but we were supplied with proven natural herbal products that support the body while it fights Parvo and we were mentally ready also. I supposed if it had been our first battle with Parvo, we could have been more intimidated, but now that we understood it, we knew that the hardest part of the battle was just keeping Mishka hydrated (even if that meant enemas) and supporting his immune system while his body fought the virus. This also meant 24-hour care.

We were fortunate, because we recognized the symptoms early and began treatment immediately. Mishka would not eat and stopped drinking, but he would take water with electrolytes orally when given in a oral syringe. He only vomited twice, so he was able to keep the herbal formulas and colloidal silver down, and we did not have to go the enema route at all. He never got to the point that he had blood in his stool, although it is said there is a strain of Parvo that does not present blood in the stool. He did become very lethargic and had urgency in having to go out, but he did not have any accidents ~~in~~ the room where he had been penned. In fact, he began getting up and drinking a little water now and then on his own by the first evening, and he even ate a little.

My husband and I took turns so one of us was with him all day and all night. By the second day, Mishka had a normal stool, but we were still cautious because of our first experience with Parvo where Sasha seemed better and then had a bad relapse. The third day we stopped his treatments, but then he had diarrhea. We believed this was probably due to not being able to fully digest his food, but we began treatments again, just in case, and besides they were supportive of the digestive tract. Mishka was still quite energetic as he ate light meals and drank on his own, and his stool was normal the next day.

The best part is now Mishka has a natural immunity to Parvo. That is not to say he will never get it again, because it is a virus that mutates (kind of like colds), but that if he does, it is unlikely that it will be life threatening.

Standing Firmer on No-Vaccinations

We all second guess ourselves, especially when faced with something that we or others think is preventable, but I have personally experienced and witnessed vaccine failures and the side effects that few believe will happen to them or their children or even their pets. I have detoxified adopted pets from their previous vaccines and watched their bodies cure themselves of what was thought to be incurable. I willingly admit that there is risk either way, but if the immune system is supported rather than injured, stressed, or hindered by vaccines, I believe we have a greater advantage in fighting illnesses naturally, especially with our knowledge about germs and using diligence with hygiene to reduce the risk of secondary infections that further tax the immune system. I believe if we stop trying to *help* the body with vaccinations that it can do what it was designed to do . . . restore itself to a healthy state with natural immunity.

Linda Townsend is a freelance writer of health-related issues and can be contacted at 4biohealth@gmail.com.

The Keto Diet

By Sarah Townsend

Recently, a friend of mine started a diet from which she lost about ten or fifteen pounds. She and I went out to eat together, and she was able to have normal-sized meals. I watched her enjoy a lot of food within the Ketogenic Diet. How it works is that you eat fewer carbohydrates so that your body goes into a state called Ketosis, where the body produces something called ketones.

Ketones are an alternative energy source used when blood sugar is in short supply. They are produced if you eat very few carbohydrates and moderate amounts of protein. They are made in the liver from fat, meaning that your entire body switches its fuel supply to run almost entirely on fat and therefore, burning it off.

This is great if you are trying to lose weight, but there are also other benefits. In many cases, studies have proven that it can possibly reverse Type 2 Diabetes, normalize blood sugar, and even control epilepsy. It may lessen acne, increase your physical endurance, stop heartburn, and lessen stomach problems. One major thing it does is increase mental focus. In fact, some people only go on the diet for the mental focus it provides. Of course, results may vary.

What foods are recommended for the diet? Natural fats, fish and seafood, meat, eggs, cheese, and vegetables that grow above ground. My friend even found ice cream that was within the diet's standards. Only rule is that you cannot eat more than fifty grams of carbohydrates per day. Ideally, you would eat no more than twenty grams; the fewer the better.

So, if one of your New Year's Resolutions is to lose weight or increase your concentration, why not consider this?

Sarah Townsend is a teenager keen on healthy living and the daughter of Linda Townsend, a regular contributor to The Life Line. You can contact her at 4biohealth@gmail.com.