

**Canine Coronavirus is widespread in the dog population worldwide. It invades the rapidly growing cells of the intestinal lining causing nausea, lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. It is primarily a disease of puppies.**

Coronavirus is shed in the feces of infected dogs for months after initial ingestion. It takes one two three days from the time the puppy is exposed to an infected dog's stool for it to become visibly sick.

Puppies and dogs immune to a particular strain of Coronavirus may not be immune other strains of the virus. Puppies should be treated according to symptoms rather than testing.

All dogs probably become infected with coronavirus sometime in their life and recover without getting ill or after a sickness too mild for owners to notice. We know this because most adult dogs have antibody to this disease which indicates that they were, at one time, exposed to the virus. So if testing shows that your puppy is positive for coronavirus, he may not exhibit any signs, but what that test is showing is that sometime in the puppy's life he has been exposed to the virus.

All puppies are exposed to this virus when they step in Mama's stool or in the stool of another puppy from the litter. As clean and sanitized as you can make your puppy playpen, it is unconceivable that any puppy on any given hour will avoid the accidents of another.

### **What Symptoms Should I Look For?**

The main sign of Coronavirus in puppies is watery diarrhea. It differs from the diarrhea produced from eating trash in not containing much mucus.

Coronavirus diarrhea typically lasts 2-4 days and very few puppies die from it. If puppies do die, there are usually other problems occurring at the same time, such as parasites, dual infection with parvovirus or malnutrition.

### **How The Disease Progresses:**

Within 2-3 days of ingesting the virus, coronavirus can be found in the upper two-thirds of the pet's small intestine. In very rare cases the virus may also invade the spleen, liver and brain and lungs.

During this same period diarrhea begins. Diarrhea usually lasts 2-7 days. The diarrhea is due to malabsorption of nutrients and a deficiency in digestive enzymes.

Most infected dogs shed coronavirus in their stools for 6-9 days. But shedding can be prolonged in some pups. Most puppies recover after a few days of diarrhea and poor appetite.

### **How Can My Pup Be Treated?**

There is no specific treatment your veterinarian has that kills canine coronavirus. What we try to do is support the pup until its own immune system conquers the virus.

### **For General Support:**

If protozoa is detected in fecal samples your vet may place the pups on metronidazole (Flagyl). If I detect hookworms I worm the pups with pyrantel pamoate .

### **How Can We Prevent This Disease?**

Your new puppy has been dewormed with pyrantel pamoate several time throughout growth as puppies tend to re-infest themselves constantly by walking through stool or putting their nose to the feces.

Also, puppies receive a five day treatment of metronidazole before departure.

Do not take your new puppy to places that other dogs visit until its puppy shot series is completed.