



For Immediate Release:
July 28, 2009

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Humane Society of Huron Valley Sees Increase in Number of Puppy Parvo Cases

(Ann Arbor) – In the last week and half the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) has seen seven confirmed cases of Parvovirus incoming puppies. These puppies were both strays and owned pets.

“This is a bit scary. It is definitely out of the ordinary, we might see seven cases over several months”, says Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director.

Parvovirus is a very serious and highly contagious disease that is often deadly for puppies because of their weaker immune system. Parvo initially attacks the digestive system causing diarrhea, fever, vomiting, loss of appetite and lethargy. These symptoms can escalate to dehydration, shock and sudden death. Parvovirus is **not** transferable to humans.

Parvovirus is extremely virulent and can live in the environment for months. Adult dogs are less vulnerable to illness because they are more likely to be vaccinated and have stronger immune systems.

“This is an important reminder to owners to ensure that your puppy follows a vaccination protocol as set out by your veterinarian. Even puppies that have been initially immunized are vulnerable because antibodies passed from a mother can interfere with the vaccination. It is generally recommended that puppies get vaccinated every 3-4 weeks until they are 16 weeks old, and then annually after that,” says Dr. Meredith Mallory, HSHV Shelter Veterinarian.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving all of Washtenaw County and beyond, and relies solely on donations from businesses and individuals to support our community programs. The mission of HSHV is to promote responsible and compassionate care of all animals in our community. For more information, call (734) 662-5585 or visit www.hshv.org.

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