

**Examples of articles reporting on parvovirus outbreaks
in the Australian media during the period December 2009 – March 2011
including articles that call for repeated core vaccination of dogs**

compiled by
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This list of media articles regarding parvovirus outbreaks in Australia ***includes*** articles which quote veterinarians who promote ***non-evidence based annual revaccination of dogs with core vaccines, or that core vaccinations be kept 'up to date'***.

The Australian Veterinary Association is aware that many veterinarians continue to urge pet owners to have their pets revaccinated unnecessarily, ***but has not taken effective steps to warn the public about this practice***. Contrary to assurances by Mark Lawrie, Past President of the Australian Veterinary Association, ***none of the media articles listed in this document quoting representatives of the AVA demonstrate that the mission of AVA spokespeople has been "to articulate our policy, including the need to reduce frequency of vaccination."***¹

None of these articles mention the World Small Animal Veterinary Association's (WSAVA) 2010 [Guidelines for the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats](#). It is doubtful that many veterinarians are sharing important information from these guidelines and the scientific literature with pet owners, e.g. that the duration of immunity (DOI) of core vaccines ***"is many years and may be up to the lifetime of the pet"***.²

In his paper "Age and long-term protective immunity in dogs and cats", Ronald Schultz, Professor of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a member of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association's (WSAVA) Vaccination Guidelines Group, and the American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Task, Force states:

In general, adaptive immunity following vaccination with modified live virus (MLV) vaccines develops earliest and most effectively in that it is often complete (e.g. sterile immunity is induced) ***and duration of immunity (DOI) is often lifelong....Actively immune dogs will develop an innate and a rapid anamnestic humoral and cell-mediated response, thus will be protected from infection and/or disease. The presence of antibodies, regardless of titre, in these dogs demonstrates protective immunity.***³ (My emphasis.)

It is unacceptable that pet owners continue to be pressured to have their pets revaccinated 'annually' or 'triennially' with core vaccines when there is no evidence to show that this is beneficial for an animal that has already responded to core vaccination. Pet owners should be offered the option of a lab-based or in-surgery titre test if there is any doubt about an animal's immune status.

For a summary of current vaccination issues, including statements from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, and the Australian government regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, refer to: [Important Information for Dog Owners Vaccination Update July 2010](#).

Examples of media articles December 2009 – March 2011. (Most recent article first):

[Huge surge in cases of deadly parvovirus](#) (Courier Mail, 20 March 2011)

- Dogs across Queensland are fighting for their lives after a huge surge in cases of a deadly disease following widespread flooding across the state.
- The Australian Veterinary Association has confirmed the increase in parvovirus cases, a highly contagious infection that attacks the gastrointestinal tract and cardiovascular system of dogs.
- Dr Jodie Wilson, president of the Queensland division of the Australian Veterinarian Association, said Caboolture, Morayfield, Brisbane's southern suburbs and the north Gold Coast have reported particularly large increases. "Before the floods, vets were dealing with about five or six cases a week and now it's up to 20 to 30," she said.

- Symptoms for parvovirus, which is particularly dangerous for puppies and **older dogs**, include loss of appetite and vomiting. (My emphasis.)
- Jasmine Gee, of Woodend, Ipswich, feared her **vaccinated Rottweiler puppy** Fonzie would die after he spent five days in hospital in February before slowly recovering. (My emphasis.)

[RSPCA WARNS OF DEADLY PARVOVIRUS](#) (RSPCA NSW Media Release, 2 March 2011)

- Four dogs have been diagnosed with the deadly parvovirus in one day, and RSPCA NSW veterinarians expect to see an influx of cases reported over the coming days. As such, RSPCA vets state-wide are urging dog owners to vaccinate their pets against this highly contagious infection before it's too late.
- Parvovirus (often referred to as parvo) is a viral infection that affects young puppies and unvaccinated adult dogs. The disease can survive up to a year in the environment and can be contracted through direct or indirect contact with infected dog faeces. Even if dogs don't come in direct contact with an infected dog, they can still contract the virus through contaminated objects – shoes, clothes, even the ground.
- The only way to protect your dog against this deadly disease is through preventive vaccination. "It's imperative to vaccinate all dogs and puppies from parvovirus, with the first vaccination occurring at 6-8 weeks of age," said Dr Awad. "Because the virus is so contagious, we recommend restricting puppies from public outdoor areas or mixing with unvaccinated dogs until the entire series of puppy vaccinations is complete." From then, **dogs require regular vaccinations for the rest of their lives.**
- The second page of the RSPCA media release includes a photograph of a nine year old dog called Angus, stating he "still requires **annual** vaccinations to protect him against deadly parvovirus". (My emphasis.)

[Flooding spreads deadly pet virus](#) (Queensland Times, 2 March 2011)

- Ipswich vets have reported a recent spike in canine parvovirus cases, with floods cited as a possible cause.
- Dogs usually pick up parvovirus from the soil, with early symptoms including loss of appetite and lethargy, followed by bloody diarrhoea and vomiting.
- If left untreated, the virus can be fatal within a matter of days but while there is no cure, most dogs will recover with specialised treatment.
- "The best way to stop it is to stay on top of prevention; **make sure vaccinations are up to date.**"
- Once a dog gets parvo and survives, its natural defences build up and it is less likely to suffer symptoms of the virus again, however, vets strongly recommend that all dogs are fully vaccinated.
- Puppies usually have their first needle at six to eight weeks, returning for booster shots a month apart for the next three months, **followed by one booster shot per year.**"

[Parvovirus rampant in Armidale](#) (The Armidale Express, 23 February 2011)

- Armidale dog owners are warned to be on alert after a massive increase in the number of Canine Parvovirus infections in the local area.
- However, 'Parvo' is easily preventable. It is one of the diseases contained within the core vaccine that should be administered to puppies **and again to adults in booster form.**
- One vaccination at six weeks of age is not enough – that is insufficient to provide sufficient protection against Parvo. Like all vaccinations, antibody levels wane over time **so boosters as an adult are necessary to retain immunity.** Vaccinations are affordable – costing little over \$1 per week **for an annual booster.**

[Northern vets in call for dog vaccination](#) (Messenger, 25 January 2011)

- VETS are urging dog owners to vaccinate their pets after a surge in cases of parvovirus across the north.
- Clinics at Elizabeth, Paralowie and Smithfield said cases of the potentially deadly disease had risen sharply in the past six weeks.
- Dr Gary Stevens, of the Elizabeth Park Veterinary Clinic, said the clinic was diagnosing three or four dogs a day with the virus, compared with the usual one dog every two to three weeks.
- "The bottom line is you have to vaccinate your dogs. If you don't, it is a significant risk."
- Puppies should be vaccinated at six to 14 weeks **and then again each year.** (My emphasis.)

- Up to 300 dogs died in the northern suburbs in 2005, the last time there was a major outbreak of the virus.

Campbelltown Pound adoption heartbreak (Campbelltown MacArthur Advertiser, 19 January 2011)

- JUDY Clarke, of Werombi, thought she was doing the right thing by adopting a five-months-old puppy from Campbelltown pound.
- But a fortnight ago she had to have the pup euthanased when she found it had contracted Parvovirus, which she believes it had before she bought it.
- "I just fell in love with this dog," she said. "I took it to the vet last Wednesday and it had Parvo and a 50/50 chance of survival. It was going to take up to \$1500 to get it through it, so financially my only choice was to put it down.
- "They said to me when I picked it up they had Parvo at the facility but I didn't realise the severity of it. I took her straight to the vet and didn't have her Parvo tested but she got her vaccine there, although she must have already had the disease."
- He said Parvovirus was difficult to diagnose and tests were not always accurate, with cases occurring on a random basis in the communities the dogs came from.

Calls for 24 hour vet service grow (The Observer, 18 January 2011)

- FEW know the pain of losing a much-loved pet more than Danae Lewis.
- The devoted "mum" of six-month-old Mastiff-cross Ellie, has called for improved services and 24-hour care for the Gladstone region's pets.
- It's believed Ellie had canine parvovirus (parvo), which Ms Lewis finds hard to understand ***as she had taken all the necessary measures to keep Ellie up to date with her vaccinations.*** (My emphasis.)

Vets warn of deadly virus (The Mercury 4 December 2010)

- **TASMANIAN vets have warned dog owners statewide that the current outbreak of the deadly parvovirus disease is infecting large numbers of dogs.**
- The Australian Veterinary Association has now issued a warning about the high incidence of parvovirus cases being seen in Tasmania.
- Dr Angela Offord, from the association, said there were reported cases in Hobart. Common signs of the disease are severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea.
- Dr Offord said parvovirus was easily preventable by vaccination.
- "This is worrying for new dog owners as parvovirus is severe in puppies, with death in about 80 per cent of untreated cases," she said.

Vets alarmed at parvo spike (In My Community, 1 December 2010)

- THE incidence of the potentially deadly canine parvovirus has increased dramatically in the Peel region, with one veterinary practice reporting about 10 cases per week.
- Pinjarra Veterinary Hospital head nurse Lauren Renwick said there had been a huge increase in parvo cases, when last year there were only 10 cases.
- Ms Renwick said the cost to treat dogs suffering from parvo could reach thousands of dollars.
- Some people opt to have their dog euthanised because of the high cost of treatment.
- Halls Head Small Animal Clinic veterinarian Julie Willmore said the number of dogs and puppies with parvo had doubled in the past year.
- Coastal Veterinary Hospital vet Rebecca Taylor said parvo was endemic in Mandurah ***because of lower vaccination rates.***
- Veterinarians across WA have been treating up to five times the normal number cases of parvo.
- Australian Veterinary Association spokesman Garry Edgar said there had been hundreds of reported cases in the past few months.
- "This is particularly worrying for new dog owners as parvovirus is most severe in puppies, with death in around 80 per cent of untreated cases," he said.
- "Common signs of the disease are severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea.
- "The frustrating thing for vets is that this virus is highly preventable."

Tassie vets fight parvo outbreak (Australian Veterinary Association Media Release, 1 December 2010)

- **Tasmanian vets say they are currently treating unusually high numbers of a deadly dog and puppy disease.**
- "Usually we only see large numbers of dogs and puppies with parvovirus during the much hotter summer months," said Dr Angela Offord from the Australian Veterinary Association.
- "There have been a number of reported cases in Hobart, Launceston and in George Town and surrounding areas.
- "This is particularly worrying for new dog owners as parvovirus is most severe in puppies – with death in around 80 per cent of untreated cases," Dr Offord said.
- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases. This much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon.
- Detailed information on this outbreak came from the Disease WatchDog, an online database of companion animal diseases, which was launched at the beginning of the year.

Fever, virus threat to dogs (The Mercury, 29 November 2010)

- Owners are also asked to be alert for symptoms of potentially deadly parvovirus.
- Vaccination of pups at 8-10 weeks and 12-13 weeks, and repeated every few years, is an effective way to prevent parvovirus.

Vets report five-fold increase in parvovirus cases (Perth Now, 24 November 2010)

- **WA veterinarians are warning dog owners about an increase in the number of pets being treated for a potentially deadly, but easily preventable, disease.**
- Vets have reported up to a five-fold increase in the number of parvovirus cases being detected this year.
- Australian Veterinary Association spokesman Dr Garry Edgar said: "There have been several hundred reported cases of parvovirus across Western Australia in the past couple of months, which is unusually high."
- The disease is most severe in puppies, which have an 80 per cent death rate if untreated.
- Common signs of the disease include severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea.
- "The frustrating thing for vets is that this virus is highly preventable," Dr Edgar said.
- "Every single puppy or kitten needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases and needs to be isolated prior to receiving the vaccination. This is much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon."

Deadly puppy virus outbreak warning (WA Today, 24 November 2010)

- An outbreak of a deadly disease has affected five times more puppies and dogs in Western Australia than usual, according to the Australian Veterinary Association.
- The deadly parvovirus, which is passed between dogs much like the flu is spread in humans, has been detected in several hundred dogs since the beginning of September, the association's Garry Edgar said.
- "This is particularly worrying for new dog owners as parvovirus is most severe in puppies – with death in around 80 per cent of untreated cases," he said.
- He blamed the outbreak on a combination of the warm spring weather, as well as people becoming complacent in vaccinating their pets.
- "People are just becoming a bit complacent about isolating their puppies while they are going through the course of vaccinations or they're just not vaccinating at all," he said.

Vets fight puppy disease outbreak across WA (Australian Veterinary Association Media Release, 24 November 2010)

- Veterinarians across Western Australia say they have been treating up to five times the normal number of cases of a deadly dog and puppy disease this year.
- "We are seeing very high numbers of canine parvovirus this year," said Dr Garry Edgar from the Australian Veterinary Association.
- "There have been several hundred reported cases of parvovirus across Western Australia in the past couple of months, which is unusually high.

- “This is particularly worrying for new dog owners as parvovirus is most severe in puppies – with death in around 80 per cent of untreated cases,” Dr Edgar.
- “Every single puppy or kitten needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases and needs to be isolated prior to receiving the vaccination. This is much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon.
- Detailed information on this outbreak came from the Disease WatchDog, an online database of companion animal diseases, which was launched at the beginning of 2010.

Protect your dog against parvo (In My Community, 10 November 2010)

- A DEVASTATED Ellenbrook resident who had to have her seven-year-old staffy put down because of parvovirus is urging dog owners to vaccinate their pets.
- Since her dog Hope died on October 21, Lisa Stevens has been stopping dog owners on the street to warn them about the dangers of the deadly virus.
- Canine parvovirus is spread by contact with an infected dog’s faeces.
- “It is the most horrific thing to see happen to your dog; I don’t want other people to have to go through it like I did,” Ms Stevens said.
- She encouraged dog owners to get their dogs vaccinated, something she could not afford to do.
- Ellenbrook vet Barry Odesnik said there were outbreaks of the virus throughout Perth, including two in Ellenbrook.
- “I suspect it is because we have had low rainfall this year, so people are out and about more often with their dogs. If it continues to be dry during summer, I suspect there will be another outbreak next year,” he said.
- He said the best way to fight the virus was also the cheapest – to vaccinate.
- “If you do not vaccinate your dog and it contacts the virus, it is expensive to treat – up to \$4000,” he said.
- “I suggest dog owners avoid heavy-traffic dog areas until they vaccinate their pets.”

Parvovirus outbreak: Yass vets send warning (Yass Tribune, 17 September 2010)

- A serious warning to all dog owners has been issued by the Yass Veterinary Hospital, following the death of three puppies from parvovirus.
- Within the past week, Yass Veterinary Hospital has had to euthanase three young, unvaccinated pups suffering from the deadly disease.
- The unfortunate deaths are a timely reminder to all dog owners of the need to vaccinate all dogs against parvovirus from six to eight weeks of age. It is important to note that older dogs are also susceptible to the virus **and must receive boosters**. (My emphasis.)
- **Dog owners must be aware that any dog which has not been vaccinated in the past 12 months is at risk of contracting this potentially fatal virus.** Once contracted, parvovirus spreads rapidly to all other dogs in contact and persists in the environment for a significant period. (My emphasis.)
- Owners should look for signs of vomiting, diarrhoea or general lethargy and reluctance to play. Should any of these signs be present it is important to take the dog to the vet immediately for further investigation, as early diagnosis and treatment of parvovirus increases the dog’s chances of survival.
- **Boosters are commonly administered yearly and new booster vaccines on the market offer three year immunity to parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis.** (My emphasis.)
- If you are unsure about the vaccination status of your dog or require more information on which vaccination is appropriate for your dog please contact the Yass Veterinary Hospital.

Dog virus warning (In My Community, 20 July 2010)

- A JANDAKOT vet has urged dog and puppy owners to vaccinate their pets after observing a “definite” increase in parvovirus cases presenting at his clinic.
- Jandakot Vet Hospital owner and veterinarian Ewen Blaikie said between three and four dogs had been brought in with the virus in a recent six-week period.
- Dr Blaikie said the hospital usually averaged between six and 10 cases a year – most of which were in spring and summer. He said there had “definitely” been an increase. “Probably about a month ago we had a real burst of it,” he said.
- “The best advice I can give to owners is to make sure their dogs are vaccinated,” Dr Blaikie said.

- **He also recommended owners top up their pet's vaccination annually.** (My emphasis.)
- A Spearwood Veterinary Hospital spokeswoman said they had a "run" of parvovirus and serious gastroenteritis cases last month.
- She said one of the infected animals, which presented at the hospital, had died.
- She stressed vaccinating puppies **and adult dogs** was essential. (My emphasis.)

Warning over deadly dog virus (The West Australian, 13 July 2010)

- The outbreak of a deadly canine virus, with 20 recent cases reported in the Mid-West, has prompted a warning to dog owners **to make sure vaccinations are up to date** or risk a \$5000 treatment bill. (My emphasis.)
- Murdoch University Associate Professor Peter Irwin, who specialises in canine medicine, said the increase in parvovirus could be because a lot of puppies were being born and younger dogs were more susceptible.
- "If their numbers are much higher than normal, that is a good indication that something is happening," he said.
- He was unaware of an outbreak in Perth but warned dog owners to make sure vaccinations were **up to date**. (My emphasis.)
- Parvovirus is a severe illness that strips lining from a dog's intestine. It can be prevented by vaccinations at six weeks, 12 weeks **and a yearly booster for adult dogs**. (My emphasis.)

Vaccinate now and save dogs, warn vets (Cooma Express, 13 July 2010)

- Just like humans who catch winter flu, animals can get different strains of potentially deadly diseases that can strike quickly, and without warning.
- But veterinarians across Australia have been treating unusually high numbers of winter cases of parvovirus. In NSW alone in the past two months, there have been 100 reported cases, which according to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), is unusually high for this time of year.
- Snowy Mountains Veterinary Group veterinarian Anthony Butchers said there had not been any noticeable increase in parvovirus, with his last case about six weeks ago.
- However, publicity about the increase in NSW had worked, with one dog owner calling to check that his pet was adequately vaccinated.
- "**Parvovirus is notorious for changing slightly.** It really knocks dogs around if they haven't got vaccination protection, especially the puppies," he said. (My emphasis.)

Vaccinate against parvovirus (The Queensland Times, 9 July 2010)

- VETERINARIANS across Queensland say they have been treating unusually high numbers of winter cases of a deadly dog and puppy disease this year.
- Australian Veterinary Association Queensland Division president Dr Jodie Wilson said usually they only saw large numbers of dogs and puppies with parvovirus during the summer months.
- "The frustrating thing for vets is that this virus is highly preventable.
- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases.

Parvovirus outbreak threatens dogs (ABC Rural, New South Wales, 9 July 2010)

- There has been an alarming spike in the number of cases of a deadly dog disease in the state's Central West.
- The Australian Veterinary Association says the number is "unusually high for this time of year".
- "There have been about 100 cases reported in NSW in the last couple of months."
- Dr Swinney says the virus is highly preventable through vaccination.

Virus threat to our pets (Northern Star, 8 July 2010)

- DOG owners in the Lismore and Casino areas are being warned to be on high alert for the deadly parvovirus.
- Already several puppies and adult dogs have died as a result of an outbreak veterinarians say is proving particularly tough to beat.
- He urged all pet owners to make sure their pets were vaccinated although he acknowledged **there was some indication that the virus is proving resistant to some vaccination regimes**. (My emphasis.)

- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases. This is much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon," said Dr Graham Swinney, of the Australian Veterinary Association.

Segment re parvovirus and vaccination with the 'Bondi Vet', Chris Brown, recommending non-evidence based annual vaccination on Channel 10's program the 7PM Project, Thursday 8 July 2010 (Note: video is preceded by an advertisement)

Video Transcript

- **Charles Pickering:** You're with the 7pm Project. Now we promised puppies at the beginning of the show. What's the story Chris?
- **Chris Brown:** It's a bit of a serious one actually. Puppies right around the country are currently at risk after an outbreak of a highly contagious and deadly dog virus.
- **Chris Brown:** We're so lucky, in a way, to have these amazing vaccinations, so...it's so easy to prevent this. So vaccinate your dogs at 6 weeks, then 12 weeks, then 16 weeks, ***then every year after that.*** (My emphasis)

Call to vaccinate as vets warn of spike in deadly dog virus (8 July 2010, Sydney Morning Herald)

- IT IS not only humans who are feeling sick in Sydney this winter - our four-legged friends are suffering, too.
- In the past two months the Australian Veterinary Association has received about 100 reports of the highly contagious and potentially fatal dog disease parvovirus, an unusually high number for winter.
- "Usually we only see large numbers of dogs and puppies with parvovirus during the summer months," said Graham Swinney, from the Australian Veterinary Association.
- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases. This is much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon," Mr Swinney said.
- Gary Ashton, a vet at the Campbelltown Veterinary Hospital, said he had treated about 20 dogs for the disease in the past two months, more than usual for winter.
- Some of these dogs were euthanased after their owners decided treatment was too expensive.
- Dr Ashton said examples of parvovirus tended to be clustered in lower socio-economic areas where fewer dogs are vaccinated.
- "Vets in the north shore, where a very high percentage of dogs are vaccinated, may never see the virus," he said.
- Dr Ashton recommended puppies be vaccinated at six weeks, 12 weeks and again at 16 weeks.

Deadly puppy flu hits WA (WA Today, 7 July 2010)

- An outbreak of a deadly dog disease is attacking West Australian puppies.
- The state has an unusually high number of cases this winter, according to Disease WatchDog - an online database of companion animal diseases for veterinary clinics, which was launched by at the start of the year.
- "The frustrating thing for vets is that this virus is highly preventable," Dr Swinney said.
- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases.

Warning on killer puppy virus (The Age, 7 July 2010)

- Dog owners have been warned to vaccinate their pets following an unseasonal outbreak of the life-threatening parvovirus.
- Veterinarians across Australia have reported an unusually high number of winter cases for the dog and puppy disease.
- Dr Graham Swinney, from the Australian Veterinary Association said today the most frustrating element of the outbreak was that the virus was highly preventable.
- "Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases," Dr Swinney said.
- AVA Victorian president Bill Harkin said the increase could be attributed to new record-keeping systems but was also due to lack of awareness of the benefits of vaccination.
- ***"Once the vaccination levels drop below a certain point, all of a sudden you have enough susceptible individuals to ensure disease will spread,"*** he said. (My emphasis.)

[Vets fight puppy parvo outbreak across Australia](#) (Australian Veterinary Association Media Release, 7 July 2010)

- Veterinarians across Australia say they have been treating unusually high numbers of winter cases of a deadly dog and puppy disease this year.
- “Usually we only see large numbers of dogs and puppies with parvovirus during the summer months,” said Dr Graham Swinney from the Australian Veterinary Association.
- “In the past two months in there have been around 200 reported cases of parvovirus across Australia, which is unusually high for this time of year.
- “Every single puppy or kitten in Australia needs to be vaccinated against deadly diseases. This much less expensive than treating your pet after it gets sick and saves the heartache of losing a new family member too soon.
- Detailed information on this outbreak came from the Disease WatchDog, an online database of companion animal diseases, which was launched by Virbac Animal Health at the beginning of the year.

[Alert on canine virus outbreak](#) (The Gympie Times, 11 June 2010)

- GYMPIE dog owners are being warned of another outbreak of the deadly canine parvovirus (CPV).
- Veterinarian Lachlan Campbell is urging dog owners to ensure their pet’s vaccinations are **up to date** and said puppies are especially vulnerable. (My emphasis.)
- CPV is easily preventable; all dog owners need do is make sure their puppies are vaccinated **and bring older dogs in for their yearly booster shots**, he said. (My emphasis.)

[Parvo virus outbreak in shire](#) (Byron Shire News, 27 May 2010)

- A recent outbreak of parvo virus in the Byron Shire has put all dog lovers and owners on alert against the deadly and highly infectious virus.
- Council ranger Gerry Burnage said two dogs picked up showed symptoms of parvo.
- “The best way to protect your dog is prevention,” Mr Burnage said.
- “**A yearly vaccination** at your local vet is the best way to protect your dog and stop the spread of the disease.” (My emphasis.)

[Plea to protect pets](#) (Margaret River Mail, 26 May 2010)

- RESIDENTS are being urged to protect their pets against the deadly parvovirus after cases have cropped up in Margaret River.
- She said the best way to protect dogs from the virus was to ensure their **vaccinations are up to date**. (My emphasis.)

[Maribyrnong dogs in danger](#) (Maribyrnong Leader, 15 May 2010)

- A DEBILITATING, but preventable, virus is spreading through local dogs, a vet clinic warns.
- Puppies should have a three-month course of the parvovirus vaccine **and an annual booster**. (My emphasis.)
- Ms Forder said that until recently she hadn’t seen the condition for a while and hoped owners had **kept up with the annual shots**. (My emphasis.)
- “It’s easily preventable. We send out reminder notices but everyone needs to be aware,” she said.

[Coast dogs in danger of parvo](#) (Gold Coast News, 30 April 2010)

- DOG owners are being warned to vaccinate their pets as the worst parvovirus epidemic in the past five years starts to be felt on the Gold Coast.
- Dr Lawrie said there was a higher trend this year, especially in southeast Queensland, due to the moist and hot climate.
- All puppies should receive a parvovirus vaccination as part of their vaccine regime, **and then get yearly boosters**. (My emphasis.)

[More dogs hit by deadly parvo bug](#) (The Queensland Times, 22 April 2010)

- IPSWICH vets are warning dog owners to ensure their pets are vaccinated after reporting an outbreak of the deadly Parvovirus in the city.
- Puppies can take three vaccinations from six to eight weeks, 10-12 weeks and 14-16 weeks, **with booster shots for each following year**. (My emphasis.)

[Virus outbreak strikes dogs in Bacchus Marsh, Ballan](#) (Moorabool Leader, 9 April 2010)

- DOG owners in the Bacchus Marsh and Ballan areas have been warned to ensure their pets are adequately vaccinated after an outbreak of the deadly parvovirus.
- Cr Toohey said the best method of protecting a dog against parvovirus was by vaccinating the dog.
- “All puppies should be vaccinated as part of their vaccine program **and all adult dogs should receive a booster vaccine annually**,” he said. (My emphasis.)
- “If you are a breeder it is important to give bitches a booster before mating in order to transfer protective antibodies to their puppies.”

[Dog owners warned about parvovirus](#) (Liverpool Leader, 12 March 2010)

- Pet owners are being warned to vaccinate their dogs after an outbreak of the highly contagious parvovirus
- Cam Nguyen from Ashcroft Veterinary Surgeons said the recent spate of wet weather had exacerbated the outbreak.
- “It’s part of being a responsible animal owner to make sure dogs are fully vaccinated and **have a booster once a year**.” (My emphasis.)

[Warning: It’s dog’s life on Tweed](#) (Tweed Daily News, 10 March 2010)

- “We haven’t seen much parvovirus here this year, but it’s a good time to remind dog owners **to ensure vaccinations are up to date**,” Dr Fury said. (My emphasis.)

[Vaccinate your dog and defeat Parvovirus](#) (Blacktown Advocate, 10 March 2010)

There has been a more than usual number of cases of parvovirus reported recently. My vet has had 9 cases in 2 weeks. Please be extra careful **and ensure your puppy or dog is up to date with all vaccines**. (My emphasis.)

[Deadly dog virus hits local district](#) (Narromine News, 10 March 2010)

- Local veterinarian Jill Kelly is warning dog and puppy owners to make sure their pets are **up to date with their vaccinations** as a wave of the deadly parvovirus spreads through the region.
- Dogs that are particularly susceptible to parvovirus are young puppies and dogs that have not had their vaccinations.
- Dr Rod Starr, President of the NSW Division of the Australian Veterinary Association said, “**adult dogs don’t necessarily need a booster if they have already had their shots**, however, it is critical that puppies are vaccinated”. (My emphasis.)
- Ms Kelly has one important message for dog and puppy owners in the shire. “Make sure you vaccinate your puppies, and if you have a dog at home who hasn’t been vaccinated, make sure you get them done too”.
- For further information about the most suitable vaccination program for your dog you should contact your veterinarian.

[Puppies at risk of deadly parvovirus](#) (Nyngan Observer, 10 March 2010)

- Vets are warning dog and puppy owners to make sure their pets are **up to date with their vaccinations** as a wave of deadly parvovirus spreads through the eastern states. (My emphasis.)
- “**Adult dogs don’t necessarily need a booster if they have already had their shots**, however, it is critical that puppies are vaccinated”, according to vet Dr Starr. (My emphasis.)

[Deadly virus prompts urgent vaccination call](#) (Moonee Valley Community News, 9 March 2010)

- Vets are warning pet owners to **make sure pets are up to date with vaccinations** as a new wave of deadly parvovirus spreads through Australia. (My emphasis.)
- “**Adult dogs don’t necessarily need a booster if they have already had their shots**. However it is critical that puppies are vaccinated” Australian Veterinary Association president Dr Rod Starr said. (My emphasis.)

[Dog virus warning for Whittlesea](#) (Wittlesea Leader, 9 March 2010)

- Pet owners are being urged to make sure dogs have been vaccinated against the deadly parvovirus following outbreaks in Victoria.

- Dogs that are particularly susceptible to parvovirus are young puppies and dogs that have not had their vaccinations.
- “**Adult dogs don’t necessarily need a booster if they have already had their shots**, however, it is critical that puppies are vaccinated” Dr Starr said. (My emphasis.)
- Dr Hyndman said it was frustrating to see dogs dying from the disease because owners **put off vaccinations** or chose not to vaccinate them at all. (My emphasis.)

Parvo virus alert for pooches (Daily Mercury, 8 March 2010)

- Veterinary surgeons are urging pet owners to look out for warning signs and **have their dogs vaccinated** after a recent increase in the number of canines with Parvo Virus. (My emphasis.)
- “**Adult dogs should have one vaccination booster a year. There is also a three-year booster system. This needs to continue throughout the dog’s life.**” (My emphasis.)

Deadly dog virus threat (The Manly Daily, 3 March 2010)

- DOG owners are being warned of a deadly canine virus that is highly contagious and can kill up to 80 per cent of unvaccinated puppies.
- Mr Kalil said most cases were in puppies that had been bought in other parts of Sydney or where dogs had been infected by mixing with others in a kennel while their owners were on holiday.
- “If the dog has only had one vaccination, it doesn’t protect them,” he said.
- “They need a second vaccination.
- Mr Starr said puppies need two vaccinations to ensure they don’t get infected.
- “The virus can be especially severe in puppies, with death in around 80 per cent of untreated cases,” he said.
- “Vaccination is a very effective way of preventing infection.”

Deadly dog virus brought on by wet weather (Australian Veterinary Association Media Release, 3 March 2010)

- Vets are warning dog and puppy owners to make sure their pets are **up to date with their vaccinations** as a wave of deadly parvovirus spreads through the eastern states.
- Dr Jodie Wilson, President Elect of the Queensland Division of the Australian Veterinary Association, said “We have seen a significant increase in dogs with canine parvovirus being brought into veterinary surgeries in recent weeks.
- Dogs that are particularly susceptible to parvovirus are young puppies and dogs that have not had their vaccinations.
- “**Adult dogs may need a booster and you can get advice on this from your local vet**, however, it is critical that puppies are vaccinated,” said Dr Wilson. (My emphasis.)
- For further information about the most suitable vaccination program for your dog you should contact your local veterinarian.

Dog virus brought on by wet weather (Weekly Times Now, 3 March 2010)

- Vets are warning pet owners to make sure their pets are **up to date with their vaccinations** as a wave of deadly parvovirus spreads through the eastern states. (My emphasis.)
- Dr Jodie Wilson, President Elect of the Queensland Division of the Australian Veterinary Association, said there had been a significant increase in dogs with canine parvovirus being brought into veterinary surgeries in recent weeks.
- Dogs that are particularly susceptible to parvovirus are young puppies and dogs that have not had their vaccinations.
- “**Adult dogs may need a booster and you can get advice on this from your local vet**, however it is critical that puppies are vaccinated,” said Dr Wilson. (My emphasis.)
- Detailed information about parvovirus outbreaks also came from the Disease WatchDog, an online database of companion animal diseases, launched by Virbac Animal Health last month.

Dog virus sparks vaccination call (Northern Star, 3 March 2010)

- An outbreak of deadly parvovirus has hit the Northern Rivers, **prompting one local vet to urge residents to vaccinate their dogs.** (My emphasis.)

- Dr Jones urged residents to ensure their dogs have had their six to eight week parvovirus vaccination and a booster shot at 10 to 14 weeks. ***Dogs should continue to get inoculated every year after that.*** (My emphasis.)

Parvovirus alert for dog owners (The Cairns Post, 3 March 2010)

- An outbreak of the potentially deadly canine parvovirus in Cairns has forced animal shelters into a quarantine lockdown.
- All vets recommend dogs are vaccinated against parvovirus at six weeks of age ***with annual boosters throughout their lives.*** (My emphasis.)

Parvovirus cases detected in Ipswich (ABC Brisbane, 3 February 2010)

- An increase in incidences of parvovirus has staff in the Booval Veterinary Hospital on alert, after they treated four cases in the last three weeks – the same number they would normally treat in a year.
- ***It's possible the increased incidence of the virus may be linked to pet owners deciding against vaccinat(ing) their pets annually.*** (My emphasis.)
- “The big fear at the moment is in high risk areas, which Ipswich traditionally is – that comes with a bit more risk.”
- If parvovirus is known to have been in an area before, chances are it will reappear, if animals aren't being vaccinated.
- “It's a virus that stays in the environment for a very long time – it doesn't break down and degrade,” says Dr Campbell.
- “I guess because it's traditionally been a lower socio-economic area, ***we've had people who haven't vaccinated quite as regularly*** and it has been in the environment.” (My emphasis.)
- ***He's recommending annual boosters for dogs in the Ipswich area, “because of the increased risk,*** and also just to cover against things like kennel cough where the vaccine doesn't last longer than that twelve months”. (My emphasis.)
- “If you're in an area where there's less risk, you certainly can stretch that – there's some people talking about doing it every three years – ***but it's not something we'd recommend if you're in an area where there's more risk***”. (My emphasis.)
- Dr Campbell also recommends vaccinating puppies. “When they're puppies, we recommend a full course of three vaccinations out here and certainly if you're going into an environment where you know parvovirus has been previously, ***you may even want to increase on that***”. (My emphasis.)

Warning to pet owners (The Western Weekender, 11 January 2010)

- Local dog owners should keep a keen eye on their furry friends, with vets reporting a rise in the number of cases of parvovirus (parvo).
- “There have been quite a lot of cases (of parvo) in the last three to four weeks, mostly coming out of the St Marys and Mt Druitt area” said Tony Karolis of the Nepean Animal Hospital.
- Tony said all Nepean Animal Hospital clients' dogs were vaccinated for parvo, however puppies were most susceptible to contamination as they are often protected by antibodies from their mother's milk up to around 12 weeks of age, which could counteract the vaccine.
- “We can't guarantee protection in puppies, which is why we recommend keeping puppies inside for 12 weeks until they've had their second vaccine,” he said.
- ***Many vets recommend dogs to be boosted at least once a year*** after the initial series of vaccinations when the dog is a puppy. (My emphasis.)

Plea to protect pets (In My Community, 5 January 2010)

- Dog owners are being urged to protect their dogs against an outbreak of the deadly parvovirus in Armadale.
- Mrs Jones said ***it was imperative dog owners kept their dog's vaccinations up to date.*** (My emphasis.)
- “Any dog that is not vaccinated is at high risk, but particularly young dogs,” she said.
- Affected dogs have a high risk of dying from the parvovirus.
- Mrs Jones said dogs should get their first vaccination between six to eight weeks of age, then their first adult course at 12 to 14 weeks, followed by a booster four weeks later. ***Boosters should then be given annually.*** (My emphasis.)

New strain of parvovirus (Warwick Daily News, 22 December 2009)

- Recently there has been a dramatic increase in the number of parvovirus cases being treated by the Allora and Warwick veterinary clinics.
- Tests performed by the University of Queensland have shown that **there is a new emerging strain called the CPV-2b strain in the area.** (My emphasis.)
- To reduce the number of cases we are treating, **we are encouraging people to vaccinate their dogs against parvovirus by offering vaccinations at a discounted rate...** (My emphasis.)
- **We are recommending to all of our clients to check that their pets' boosters are up-to-date and even to consider getting a booster done again sooner than the anniversary date to ensure pets are protected against this newer strain of virus over the summer.** (My emphasis.)
- Younger animals are at a greater risk than older ones **but we still advise people to get their older animals vaccinated.** (My emphasis.)

* This story was also reported in The Allora Advertiser, 17 December 2009, under the title **Canine parvovirus outbreak – new strain emerging** – link not available.

Be wary of mystery virus (Roxby Downs Sun, 22 December 2009)

- A mysterious and sometimes fatal virus with symptoms similar to parvovirus has been appearing in dogs in Adelaide's northern suburbs, according to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).
- To date, 30 cases of the virus, which is characterized by lethargy, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea, have been recorded.
- Dr Anderson joined the AVA in calling on pet owners to **make sure their pet's vaccinations were up to date** as the busy holiday season approached. (My emphasis.)

Canine deaths mystery (Messenger, 15 December 2009)

- A mystery disease has caused the agonizing deaths of more than a dozen northern suburbs dogs in the past month.
- More than 30 dogs have caught the disease, which attacks the gastrointestinal system and causes vomiting, diarrhoea and internal bleeding.
- Complicating the matter is the fact the northern suburbs is in the midst of a parvovirus epidemic.
- More than 200 parvovirus cases were reported across the north in November, killing about 70 per cent of canine victims.
- Australian Veterinary Association SA president Warren Foreman said the disease struck different breeds and **many of the victims were immunised against parvovirus.** (My emphasis.)
- Animalia Vet Clinic veterinarian Rebekah French said her Gawler-based clinic had ruled out parvovirus in three sick dogs in the past month. Two of the dogs, **one of which was immunised against parvovirus,** died. (My emphasis.)
- "I started ringing around to other vets in the area and found that there were other cases cropping up where tests were showing parvovirus was not the cause," Dr French said.
- Gary Stevens, from Adelaide Northern Veterinary Group's Elizabeth Park clinic, said he had not encountered the mystery disease but had treated more than 60 dogs for parvovirus in November most of which had died or had to be put down.
- He said parvovirus was at its worst since a 2006 outbreak and **all owners should immunise their dogs, at a cost of \$60-\$90, even if the animal was vaccinated last year.** (My emphasis.)

¹ Personal email correspondence from Dr Mark Lawrie, Immediate Past President of the Australian Veterinary Association, 18 May 2010.

² Day M.J., Horzinek, M.C., Schultz, R.D. World Small Animal Veterinary Association ([WSAVA](#)) 2010 Guidelines for the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats. Journal of Small Animal Practice. Volume 51 Issue 6 (June 2010). (p 338-356).

³ Schultz, R.D. et al. Age and long-term protective immunity in dogs and cats. J. Comp. Path. 2010. Vol. 142, S102-S108.