

Health Alert

Dogs & Puppies


Important Information Regarding the Health of Our Dogs and Puppies


The High Desert area has experienced a recurrence of canine distemper and canine parvovirus that has, at times, reached near epidemic proportions. As a result, animals coming into our shelter may have already been exposed to these viruses. Canine distemper and parvovirus are usually fatal to the infected animal and can be very costly for the owner who attempts to treat them.

While the Town does not knowingly expose animals in our shelter to these viruses, and even though we take precaution measures such as sanitizing our kennels numerous times per day, these illnesses may still afflict our animals. Exposed animals cannot be detected in any manner until they show physical signs of illness. Unfortunately, an infected animal may be contagious before it shows clinical symptoms of the virus. Even routinely disinfecting our kennels may not prevent the direct infection from one animal to another. As long as these viruses exist in our community, we will continue to have some animals contract these diseases.

As a potential adopter of a dog or puppy from the shelter, we want you to be as informed as possible about the health of the animal(s) you are taking home. However, we cannot guarantee that the animal you may adopt has not been exposed to a serious, possibly fatal, virus. Please keep in mind that you are adopting a stray animal with an unknown health history.

Some symptoms of illness may be:

 Lethargy (decreased energy)
Severe Coughing or Gagging
Heavy Discharge (Nose or Eyes)
Bloody Diarrhea

 Loss of Appetite
Vomiting
Dehydration

These are signs of serious illness and the animal should immediately be taken to a veterinarian or animal clinic for observation and/or treatment. You may also return the animal to the shelter free of charge within fourteen (14) days. However, the shelter is not a clinic and does not provide medical treatment.

Remember, these viruses are very contagious and an infected dog may transfer the virus to other pets you own. To protect the general pet population, your newly adopted pet should not be taken out in public or permitted to come in contact with other animals until it has received all appropriate vaccinations from your veterinarian. An approved vaccination schedule and yearly boosters are the best possible protection for your animals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this alert so you may make an informed decision. We want you and your new pet to be as happy and healthy as possible.

