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Taney County Health Department



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2010

Cases of Canine Parvovirus Reported in the Taney County Animal Control Center Calls for Community Awareness

Branson, MO—The Taney County Animal Control Center learned of 5 cases of canine parvovirus (“parvo”) affecting puppies in their facility this week.

Parvo is a potentially deadly but preventable disease, found in dogs and puppies. This virus most commonly attacks the canine intestinal tract and is shed in feces and vomit. It is not transmittable to humans.

The Taney County Animal Control Center is working to combat this disease within the shelter. The agency has consulted with local veterinarians and is ensuring that its health-monitoring system and disinfection procedures are followed. “Every precaution is being taken to prevent the spread of parvo at the shelter,” said Environmental Health Division Manager, Linda Randolph. Daily cleaning protocols include cleaning and disinfecting kennels, animal control trucks, and isolating dogs for 5 days before they are integrated into the general kennel area. Randolph said, “The shelter will not accept any dogs or puppies for 14 days, until December 14th, at the recommendation of a veterinarian, to deep clean and break the cycle of parvo.” Arrangements have been made to care for animals that need sheltering during this time.

The Taney County Animal Control Center takes dogs and puppies into the shelter that have been abandoned or running at large, which can make the risk of illness greater. For that reason, the shelter employees are vigilant about protecting the animals. Shelter supervisor Stephanie Mundell said, “We take our jobs of caring for the animals very seriously and provide every preventive measure possible to keep them healthy and adoptable.”

Dog owners are urged to take the following steps to protect their dogs from this deadly disease:

- Make sure your dog or puppy is up to date on ALL vaccinations, including the vaccination for parvo.
- Keep your pet away from the feces of other dogs.
- Remove animal feces from your yard frequently.
- Keep food bowls and animal bedding clean.
- Wash any areas that are thought to be contaminated with parvo with chlorine bleach diluted, 1 ounce per quart of water.

Taney County Animal Control Shelter urges pet owners to watch their dogs carefully for symptoms of parvo. Symptoms include loss of appetite, vomiting, dehydration, fever, depression, lethargy, and diarrhea (grayish, yellowish, or streaked with blood). Generally, it takes 7-10 days from the time of exposure for dogs and puppies to start showing symptoms and to test positive for parvo. Although this disease is often fatal, getting proper veterinary treatment soon after symptoms appear can save an infected dog’s life. For more information about parvo visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org.
