

Concerned about Parvo?

By Dr. Christine Fletcher, DVM

"If puppies are currently receiving their vaccinations, and the puppy classes are held in a clean facility that requires proof of vaccines for all dogs entering the property, then I believe the risk of parvovirus is very small. In 14 years as a veterinarian, I've not yet seen a puppy contract parvovirus from going to puppy classes. Not to say it couldn't ever happen, but I do believe the risk of parvo is much smaller than the risk of behavior problems if pups are not well-socialized and trained. I've started my own puppies in classes before 4 months of age. There are veterinarians who believe differently. I know that some veterinarians don't like to take any risk of parvo at all. But it's been my experience that many more dogs are at risk for euthanasia or abandonment due to behavior problems than will ever get sick with parvovirus. That's why I believe that an early puppy class in a facility that is clean and sanitary is worth the small risk."