

# **INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS ICH** **(ALSO KNOWN AS CANINE** **ADENOVIRUS)**



## **What Causes It**

Infectious canine hepatitis is an acute liver infection in dogs caused by canine adenovirus type-1 (CAV-1). This virus targets organs, notably the liver, kidneys, eyes and the cells that line the inside surface of the blood vessels).

In a healthy dog with good antibody response, the virus will clear the organs in 10 to 14 days, but will remain in the kidneys, where it will continue to appear in the urine for 6 to 9 months.

In dogs with poor antibody response, chronic hepatitis can occur.

## **How Is It Transmitted**

The virus is spread in the faeces, urine, blood, saliva, and nasal discharge of infected dogs

The virus can survive in the environment for many months and the urine of an infected dog can remain infectious for 9 months.

## **Signs And Symptoms**

There are two versions of this virus - one causes a kennel cough type infection, the other causes hepatitis (an infection of the liver).

Symptoms include:-

- lethargy
- coughing
- fever
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- jaundice
- abdominal pain.

The symptoms can be very similar to those of parvovirus.

## **Treatment**

There is no specific treatment; however the symptoms themselves can be treated. Deaths can occur but most dogs will recover

## **Prevention**

- make sure that you keep your puppy or unvaccinated dog away from any dogs that could possibly be infectious.
- Also, routinely clean and disinfect your home (or kennel) to ensure that the virus is not in your dog's living environment.
- make sure your dog has completed his series of vaccinations, including annual boosters.

Infectious canine hepatitis can almost always be prevented by vaccination against the canine adenovirus and the polyvalente vaccination is usually extremely effective against this particular canine virus.

Infectious canine hepatitis is very uncommon in dogs that have been properly vaccinated as puppies and that are kept up to date with their vaccinations