



# Overview of some common diagnostic tests performed in the shelter environment

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## Canine Parvo Virus (CPV)

Disease name:	Canine Parvoviral enteritis, parvovirus, parvo
Most common in-house test:	ELISA (IDEXX Cite, Snap, Synbiotics Witness, many others)
Sample:	Feces
What test detects:	Antigen
Sensitivity:	Good (estimates from 69%-98%)
Specificity:	Very good (estimates from 93%-100%)
Age effect on test results:	None
Vaccine effect:	Yes – false positive possible within 4-12 days. Usually weak if present. The more sensitive the test, the more likely it is to be positive from vaccine. Try a few with your test on healthy, recently vaccinated dogs and see what you get. Let me know!
Timing considerations:	Results are most reliable in first 5-7 days of illness, after that false negative becomes more common. Animals may be positive for a few days <i>before</i> showing clinical signs.
Prevalence/risk factors associated with disease:	Infection is most common in puppies between 8-16 weeks, but may occur in unvaccinated dogs of any age. Adult dogs may show only mild signs. Testing is indicated for any puppy with bloody diarrhea and/or signs of systemic disease, and for any recently exposed dog that develops diarrhea. Use of parvo as a screening test (e.g. in all puppies regardless of signs) is generally not indicated, and will lead to an increased rate of false positives.
Confirmation:	Test results should be evaluated in combination with clinical signs. Leukopenia on blood smear is supportive, does not rule out disease if not present (can be performed in-house with proper equipment and training). Marked enteritis may be observed on necropsy-mild cases are indistinguishable from other causes of enteritis.  Necropsy and histopathology performed at a diagnostic laboratory is the gold standard (submit at least refrigerated and formalin fixed intestine, submit heart for neonatal puppies)