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PRESS RELEASE

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Skipping Pet Vaccinations Doesn't Pay

Roseville, CA – Although it may be tempting for pet owners to cut corners when it comes to veterinary care, failing to vaccinate animals can have serious consequences. The Placer SPCA warns dog owners of recent occurrences of canine parvovirus in the Roseville area. Parvovirus is a deadly disease most common in dogs six months and younger but can affect unvaccinated or immune compromised pets of any age.

“We strongly recommend that all dog owners consult a veterinarian about having their dogs vaccinated,” said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra. “We have been made aware of dozens of Parvovirus cases in recent weeks in Roseville, and we rarely see even one in that time period.”

The canine parvovirus vaccine is included in most regular shots dogs receive if taken to a veterinarian for health checks and vaccinations.

Parvovirus is extremely contagious, and can be transmitted by direct and indirect contact with other dogs. The virus can remain active for up to a year on surfaces such as sidewalks, shoes, or even car tires. Vaccinated adult dogs are rarely made ill by parvovirus.

Certain breeds, such as pit bulls, Rottweilers, and mastiff breeds are generally thought to be more vulnerable to the virus.

“Symptoms of parvovirus include lethargy, vomiting, and diarrhea, and typically appear within five to 12 days of contracting the virus,” said local veterinarian Frank Lux. “The disease is very difficult to treat and can cause death, even with prompt treatment.”

The Placer SPCA, local companion animal welfare experts, urges dog owners to contact their veterinarians for more information about the prevention of canine parvovirus. All dogs adopted from the Placer SPCA have received the DHPP vaccination.

To view dogs available for adoption, please visit www.placerspca.org. The Placer SPCA can also provide expert advice regarding animal care and behavior. If you have questions, please call (916) 782-7722 or (530) 885-7387, extension 103.

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