



HUMANE SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY

3077 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 ▪ (616) 453-8900 ▪ www.hskc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 22, 2008

HIGHLY VIRULENT OR NEW STRAIN OF PARVO IN KENT COUNTY

(Grand Rapids, Mich – August 22, 2008) --- A highly virulent or new strain of Parvo (Parvo2c) has been suspected as the cause of death for at least three adult canines in Kent County, according to officials at the Humane Society of Kent County.

“The number of local Parvo cases is disturbingly high,” says Dr. Wendy Swift, *Veterinary Medical Director* at the Humane Society of Kent County. “The virus is spread through fecal contamination, and it has been extremely fatal in puppies as well as in both vaccinated and unvaccinated adult dogs.”

The Humane Society of Kent County is currently taking precautionary measures including a deep clean of the shelter, vaccinating all dogs/puppies appropriately upon intake and performing diagnostic tests with a veterinary pharmaceutical company.

Symptoms for Parvo may include lethargy, bloody vomit and diarrhea. The Humane Society of Kent County is encouraging pet owners to contact their veterinarians to see if their dog’s previous vaccinations provide protection against this current outbreak of Parvo. If you suspect your dog has contracted the Parvo virus, contact your veterinarian immediately and keep your dog confined, away from other dogs.

To ensure the health and safety of the animals in the shelter the Humane Society of Kent County will remain closed Friday, August 22. The shelter will re-open to the public on Saturday, August 23 from 11 am to 4 pm for adoptions only.

Animal admitting will re-open on Monday, August 25 for normal hours – 12:00 pm to 4 pm. However, all animal admitting **will be by appointment only** for the week of August 25 through August 31 for precautionary measures. To make an appointment individuals are asked to call the Humane Society of Kent County at (616) 453-8900 ext. 217.

Founded in 1883, the Humane Society of Kent County is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the welfare of animals in West Michigan. In addition to providing care for thousands of animals each year, the Humane Society offers education and veterinary care programs that promote responsible pet care, prevent overpopulation and further compassion toward animals. For more information call (616) 453-8900, visit the Humane Society at 3077 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, or visit www.hskc.org