



Medical Team - Volunteer Expectations

Thank you for your interest in joining the Pearland Parvo Recovery Center (PPRC) Medical Team! The work of the Medical Team is vital to the survival of our vulnerable Parvo patients. You will be on the front lines fighting this deadly disease. The work may be difficult, demanding and sometimes heartbreaking, but it is critical and will always be rewarding. More importantly, you will be making an immediate, significant difference in the lives of the dogs and puppies in our care.

Requirements:

- Complete a Pearland Parvo Recovery Center volunteer application.
- Complete Medical Team training which includes classroom and hands-on training. As part of your hands-on training, you will be paired with an experienced Medical Team member.
- Recommended: Parvo is highly contagious. Please make sure that your personal dogs are current on their vaccines and boosters.
- Medical Team Volunteers are required to commit to at least one 4-hour shift per week. During your initial training period, we strongly recommend that you commit to TWO 4-hour shifts per week. This will help you get up to speed more quickly with working in the Center.

Medical Team Main Responsibilities:

- **Intake:** Complete intake procedures for new patients including verifying paperwork and previous medical care, setting up medical charts, administering IDEXX Parvo Snap Tests, assessing patient's condition, and beginning treatment following PPRC's Medical Protocol.
- **Triage:** Treat critical patients first. Consult the Triage Process in the PPRC Handbook for additional information on determining order of treatment.
- **Charting:** Assess and document the condition of patients including their activity level, how much they eat and drink, the consistency of their feces, incidences of vomiting, diarrhea or blood in stool, etc. Know when a veterinarian should be called. Your observations are critical for tracking the medical progress of each patient, so please provide detailed documentation.
- **Medications & Treatments:** Follow the veterinarian's orders and the PPRC Medical Treatment Protocol in administering medications, fluids and other medical procedures as needed or advised.
- **Vaccinations:** Administer DAPP and Bordetella if needed.
- **Discharge:** Discharge patients from PPRC when ready (requires a negative Parvo test and two solid stools). Follow the Discharge Protocol in the PPRC Handbook.

Expectations for Medical Team:

As individuals responsible for critically ill patients, you are expected to take this position as seriously as you would your job. Thank you for understanding how important this position is!

- **Prevent spread of Parvo outside of PPRC:** The Pearland Parvo Recovery Center is an isolated, quarantined space dedicated only to dogs and puppies that have been diagnosed with Parvo. While in the facility you must abide by all procedures/protocols to prevent the spread of Parvo outside of PPRC including washing hands, disinfecting crates, equipment and anything else that leaves the facility, changing clothes/shoes when entering and exiting, etc. All shoes worn in the PPRC facility must remain in the facility so there will be shoes or shoe covers available at the Center; however, if you wish you may bring your own and leave them at the center.
- **Avoid cross-contamination within PPRC:** Wash hands between treating patients (or litters). Clean and disinfect bowls, toys, crates, etc. between patients/litters. Rescue disinfectant is your best friend in the Pearland Parvo Recovery Center.
- **Be Reliable:** Be available during the shifts you have committed to and complete all treatments during your shift. Your patients' survival depends on the timely administration of medications and medical procedures. Patients should receive treatment as close to the time they were scheduled as possible.
- **Practice Sterile Techniques:** Needles, catheters, fluid lines and medication vials should always be capped. Anything going into the patient must be sterile, including the syringes or IV line attached to a catheter.
- **Learn the Lingo:** Be familiar with the meanings of medical terms and abbreviations. Refer to the Medical Terms and Abbreviations section of the PPRC Handbook for additional information.
- **Know Your Medications:** Be able to identify all commonly used medications, administration requirements (give slowly, dilute in fluids, refrigerate, etc) and the routes for administering each medication (by mouth, subcutaneously, intravenously, etc.). Giving medications via the wrong route may cause seizures, injury or even death. Storing medications improperly can be costly (this can be a \$100 mistake), especially for a non-profit organization.
- **Safety, safety, safety!:** Keep yourself and the animal in your care safe. Know correct holding techniques for loading, unloading and transporting dogs, especially squirmy, frightened or excited dogs. Also, watch out for safety hazards in the PPRC facility, such as keeping all wires off the floor in case of washer/water leaks.
- **Treat all patients with love, compassion, and respect.** They are frightened and sick. Your attention and care can make a difference.
- **Be Honest:** We all make the occasional mistake. Notify Mona, Jeanette or the veterinarian if you gave the wrong medication or administer it incorrectly. Always double check before administering medications.
- **Think Critically:** Treating sick dogs and puppies requires keen observation and critical thinking. Sick puppies can crash quickly, so your attention to symptoms – even minor ones -- can be the difference between life and death.