**Canine Distemper**

•Canine Distemper is a highly contagious infectious disease of dogs worldwide caused by the canine distemper virus. It is often fatal. Canine Distemper and canine parvovirus remain the two most important infectious diseases of dogs.

•Canine Distemper is a multisystemic disease that can present with one or more of the following:

–Respiratory disease with severe pneumonia

–Gastrointestinal disease with vomiting and diarrhoea

–Neurological disease including seizures

–Severe immunosuppression causing the dog to become infected by normally innocuous bacteria and viruses

•The most common source of infection is direct contact between the susceptible dog and infected dogs or wildlife.

•The vaccines provide excellent immunity in a high percentage of dogs that complete a vaccination programme. Efficacy of the vaccines approaches 99% and dogs develop protective immunity within a few days after completing their final vaccination.

•Canine distemper is a vaccine preventable disease!