Canine Distemper Virus Life Cycle

Day 1
Stray dog comes in contact with the virus

First 24hrs.
Virus travels to the lungs and lymph nodes

Day 6
Virus has spread to internal organs, a fever may develop

Days 8-9
Body starts to react and tries to build immunity based on vaccination history

Day 14
Good Immunity:
Virus is cleared and eliminated, dog recovers*

*Even if the dog has a successful recovery, it may shed the virus for the next 2-3 months

Day 14+
Dog begins showing symptoms: fever, diarrhea, lethargy, nasal discharge

Day 14
Poor Immunity:
Virus spreads throughout body and the dog becomes an infected host.

Once symptoms manifest, the dog is less contagious. Mortality rate is very high

Canine Distemper Virus

Orange County Animal Services
Pet Rescue and Adoption Center

Orange County Government
Florida