

PRESS RELEASE

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THE RHODE ISLAND SPCA URGES ANYONE WHO HAS RECENTLY PURCHASED A PUPPY ON CRAIGSLIST TO SEEK OUT MEDICAL TREATMENT DUE TO POSSIBLE CANINE PARVOVIRUS EXPOSURE

[Riverside, Rhode Island, December 4, 2020] — On November 24, 2020, the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals received a telephone complaint regarding a recently purchased puppy that had been diagnosed with canine Parvovirus. The complainant stated that she had purchased the puppy after responding to an advertisement on Craigslist.

After speaking with the complainant, the RISPCA Division of Law Enforcement was able to identify the seller and subsequently seized two pups that were later diagnosed with Canine Parvovirus. Since the initial complaint, the RISPCA Division of Law Enforcement have identified several puppies that had been purchased through this advertisement, all of which have received the same diagnosis. Additionally, the RISPCA has identified multiple puppies in the care of local veterinary hospitals with the same diagnosis.

Canine Parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that is spread from an infected canine to another, unvaccinated canine. Symptoms can include vomiting, bloody diarrhea, dehydration and can lead to death.

The RISPCA is requesting that anyone that purchased a pup within the State of Rhode Island via a Craigslist ad contact their veterinarian. If other canines are in the household with these purchased pups, they should be vaccinated immediately. Additionally, anyone with a pup that has been recently diagnosed with Canine Parvovirus is requested to contact the RISPCA Division of Law Enforcement Special Agent Earl Newman at (401) 438-8150 x 2.

About the Rhode Island SPCA: Founded in 1870, the Rhode Island SPCA is the oldest humane animal welfare organization in the state of Rhode Island and is also the third oldest in the United States. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, it does not receive any local or federal funding nor is it affiliated with any national humane organization. It relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations to provide critical programs and services for the animals and people in the community.

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