

Dog owners guide to

LEPTOSPIROSIS



What is Leptospirosis?



Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, which means it can be spread from animals to people.

How do they contract it?



Leptospirosis is transmitted via urine from rats, wildlife and other dogs. Leptospirosis is more common in areas with warm climates and high annual rainfall but it can occur anywhere.

What are the symptoms?



Signs of leptospirosis may include fever, shivering, muscle tenderness, reluctance to move, increased thirst, changes in the frequency or amount of urination, dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes), or painful inflammation within the eyes. The disease can cause kidney failure and/or liver failure.

Where can they get leptospirosis ?



These bacteria can be found worldwide in soil and water. This also includes exposure to or drinking from rivers, lakes or streams; roaming on rural properties (because of exposure to potentially infected wildlife, farm animals, or water sources); exposure to wild animal or farm animal species, even if in the backyard; and contact with rodents or other dogs.

How can I prevent Leptospirosis?

Don't let your dog drink from standing water or swim in bodies of water that may be contaminated.

Practice good hygiene, like frequent hand washing, and avoid contact with potentially contaminated urine.

There is a Leptospirosis vaccine available that can help prevent your dog from getting Leptospirosis. Talk with your vet to see if your pet is a good candidate for the Leptospirosis vaccine.