



# LEPTOSPIROSIS



## SPRINGS

VETERINARY CARE

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can be transmitted to dogs and humans alike from contact with urine from wildlife and rodents. It is typically obtained by drinking water outdoors. It is a very hardy, spiral-shaped bacteria that can survive even the harshest environmental conditions.

### ABOUT LEPTOSPIROSIS

- Dogs contract leptospirosis through encounters with water or soil containing infected urine
- Can be communicable to other dogs and humans
- Infection is more common during rainier seasons such as Spring and Fall
- Higher infection rates are found where there is an increase in wildlife (like Central Texas)
- All dog breeds and sizes are susceptible to leptospirosis

#### EFFECTS ON CATS

Cats usually do not get leptospirosis due to lack of exposure and natural resistance to infection

#### EFFECTS ON HUMANS

Humans can become ill from leptospirosis, however, it is typically not fatal.

### SIGNS OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN DOGS:

- ✓ Flu-like symptoms
- ✓ Loss of appetite
- ✓ Dehydration & weakness
- ✓ Depression & lethargy
- ✓ Jaundice (*Yellowing of the gums and whites of the eyes*)
- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea

If you notice any of these symptoms in your dog, please schedule an appointment with your veterinarian.



[SpringsVet.com](http://SpringsVet.com)



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### DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

If your dog has presenting symptoms, your veterinarian may recommend:

- **A physical exam**
- **Blood test**
- **Urine test**
- **Overnight stay for treatment**

If your dog does have leptospirosis, your veterinarian may recommend:

- **Antibiotics**
- **Pain medication**
- **Liver and kidney support**

Treatment may be administered as a pill or injection depending if your dog has an appetite.

#### PREVENTION

The best way to prevent your dog from getting leptospirosis is with vaccine prevention.

Vaccinations are an affordable and safe way to help keep your dog from getting strains of this disease.

#### FREQUENCY

Your veterinarian will recommend an initial vaccine followed by a booster injection a few weeks later.

Your dog will need a booster vaccine yearly.

*To learn more,  
contact your veterinarian.*



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