

# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT "LEPTO"

## What is it?

Leptospirosis is a serious disease caused by infection of Leptospira bacteria. The occurrence of Leptospirosis has been **steadily rising over the past few years.**



## Who does it affect?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can affect animals such as dogs, farm animals, rodents, and wildlife. It is also a **Zoonotic disease, meaning it can be spread directly from animals to people.**

## What about cats?

Cats can be infected but seldom develop signs of disease - they are thought to be resistant. A Lepto vaccine is not available for cats.

## How is it transmitted?

The infected can shed the virus for several years, infecting water sources and soil. Bacteria can survive in water or soil for weeks or month.

Pets and people can become infected through:

- Contact with water or soil contaminated by infected animals
- Drinking, swimming, or walking through contaminated water
- Contact with the urine of infected animals
- Bites from an infected animal
- From mothers to puppies



## What are the signs & symptoms?

Clinical signs of infection vary greatly, are nonspecific, and show no early signs of infection in some infected animals.

Possible symptoms in dogs include:

- Fever
- Lack of energy
- Red eyes
- Signs of kidney or liver damage which can include frequent urination, excessive drinking, yellow eyes and skin, decreased urination, or abdominal pain.

## What are the risks?

Some dogs do not show signs of illness or only have mild illness. Early treatment is vital. Antibiotics can be effective but without treatment,

**LEPTO infection can result in permanent kidney or liver damage and CAN BE FATAL.**



## How can you reduce the risk?

**PREVENTION IS KEY!** The best ways to prevent against the disease is to keep your dog away from standing water and to **KEEP YOUR DOG VACCINATED AGAINST THE DISEASE.**

Vaccination requires boosters to ensure protection.



*Protect your pets - and your family - from this potentially deadly disease.*