

# Leptospirosis Bacterial Disease



Do you like to take your dog to the beach?

Do you like to go hiking or camping with your dog?

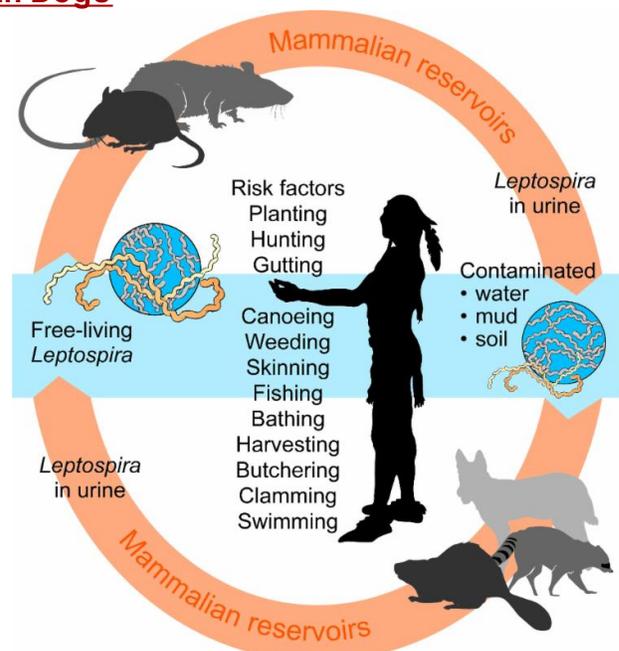
Do you have rats, raccoons or skunks on your property?

**If any of these apply, your dog is at risk for exposure to Leptospirosis.**

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by an organism that is very prevalent in the local wild animal population. It can be present in many of the body fluids, the most contagious being the urine. We see it in rats, raccoons, possums, skunks, as well as sea lions. Your pet does not have to kill the animal, just come in contact with its urine. It can cause kidney or liver failure as well as some neurologic problems and can be fatal. It is also contagious to humans. We are reporting many cases of leptospirosis recently in the local area.

## Symptoms and Types of Leptospirosis in Dogs

- Sudden fever and illness
- Sore muscles, reluctance to move
- Stiffness in muscles, legs, stiff gait
- Shivering
- Weakness
- Depression
- Lack of appetite
- Rapid dehydration
- Runny nose
- Vomiting, possibly with blood
- Bloody vaginal discharge
- Spontaneous cough
- Dark red speckled gums (petechiae)
- Diarrhea - with or without blood
- Swelling of the mucous membrane
- Mild swelling of the lymph nodes
- Yellow skin and/or whites of eyes - anemic symptoms



- Difficulty breathing, fast breathing, irregular pulse
- Increased thirst and urination, may be indicative of chronic renal (kidney) failure, progressing to inability to urinate

**If your veterinarian suspects Leptospirosis, they will run a series of test to confirm the diagnosis and begin treatment.**

### **Prevention in Pets & Humans**

To help prevent Leptospirosis infection, keep rodent problems (rats, mice, or other animal pests) under control. Rodents can carry and spread the bacteria that causes this disease.

We recommend vaccinating your pet for Leptospirosis. There are over 250 subgroups of leptospirosis, and we vaccinate for the most common ones seen in our area. Although the vaccine is not 100%, we recommend vaccinating any at risk dog.

If your pet is diagnosed with leptospirosis, your veterinarian will advise you on ways to protect yourself and how to treat your environment.

If you have any questions about Leptospirosis or want to make an appointment to get your dog vaccinated, just give us a call.

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<https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/>  
[http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c\\_multi\\_leptospirosis](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_multi_leptospirosis)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:EID\\_Leptospirosis\\_AcsB\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:EID_Leptospirosis_AcsB_1.jpg)



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