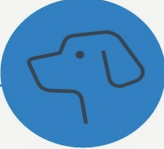





## Leptospirosis Symptoms in Animals

 <b>Dogs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Depression</li><li>• Not wanting to do anything (lethargy)</li><li>• Loss of appetite</li><li>• Joint or muscle pain</li><li>• Vomiting</li><li>• Diarrhea</li><li>• Cough</li><li>• Changes in how much they pee</li></ul>	 <b>Cats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rarely show symptoms</li></ul>	 <b>Horses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Uveitis (eye infection) that keeps coming back</li><li>• Abortion (pregnancy loss in animals)</li><li>• Acute renal (kidney) failure</li></ul>	 <b>Cows, Goats, &amp; Sheep</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abortion (pregnancy loss in animals)</li><li>• Stillbirth</li><li>• Birth of weak offspring</li><li>• Infertility</li><li>• Milk that is slightly red from blood</li></ul>	 <b>Pigs &amp; Feral Swine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Abortion (pregnancy loss in animals)</li><li>• Stillbirth</li><li>• Birth of weak or sick piglets</li><li>• Jaundice</li><li>• Acute renal (kidney) failure</li><li>• Loss of appetite</li></ul>	 <b>Marine Mammals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased drinking and peeing</li><li>• Depression</li><li>• Reluctance to use flippers</li><li>• Acute renal (kidney) failure</li><li>• Vomiting</li></ul>
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[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### Leptospirosis (“Lepto”) Vaccine - Considered a Core Vaccine for All Dogs

As of 2025, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association and the American Animal Hospital Association communicated a historic consensus that the **Leptospirosis vaccine should be considered a core vaccine for all dogs**.

ALL DOGS ARE AT RISK, regardless of age, breed, lifestyle, geographic location, or time of year. Higher risk factors are:

- \* Exposure to or drinking from slow-moving or stagnant water sources such as ponds, rivers, lakes, or streams;
- \* Roaming on rural properties (because of exposure to potentially infected wildlife or farm animals);
- \* Direct exposure to farm animals or wild animals (especially rodents), even if in your own backyard;
- \* Contact with other dogs at dog parks, grooming or boarding or training facilities.

### LEPTO IS A BACTERIAL DISEASE WHICH CAN BE FATAL TO ANIMALS AND TO HUMANS

Lepto is among the leading zoonotic disease worldwide which affects both people and animals. (Zoonosis is an infectious disease which can be transmitted from animals to humans). It is caused by bacterium which can be spread through the urine of infected livestock, pets, rodents, marine mammals, and wild animals. If a water source or soil has been contaminated by an infected animal, the bacterial can persist for several weeks to months. People and animals can become infected through contact with water or soil containing urine or bodily fluids from infected animals, directly touching urine or body fluids from an infected animal, or drinking water or eating food which has been contaminated.

Lepto is a devastating disease that can cause bleeding disorders, kidney failure, liver failure, severe lung disease, and damage to the heart muscle.

Per the CDC, an estimated 1 million human cases occur globally each year, resulting in nearly 60,000 deaths. Although it occurs most frequently in tropical and subtropical climates, Lepto has been reported throughout the United States and is believed to be under-diagnosed and under-reported which means the true numbers are likely higher.

Thankfully, there is vaccine which is very effective at preventing the disease (although no vaccine is guaranteed to be 100% effective). Although this vaccine may be approved for puppies as early as 9 weeks of age and older, it is recommended that the first Lepto vaccine be administered at 12 weeks of age or older and the required second vaccine be administered 2 to 4 weeks later. Thereafter, an annual booster is recommended. *(If your dog has lapsed with the annual booster, it is important to treat the next vaccination as an initial vaccine which requires the 2 - 4 week booster before it again becomes an annual vaccination).*