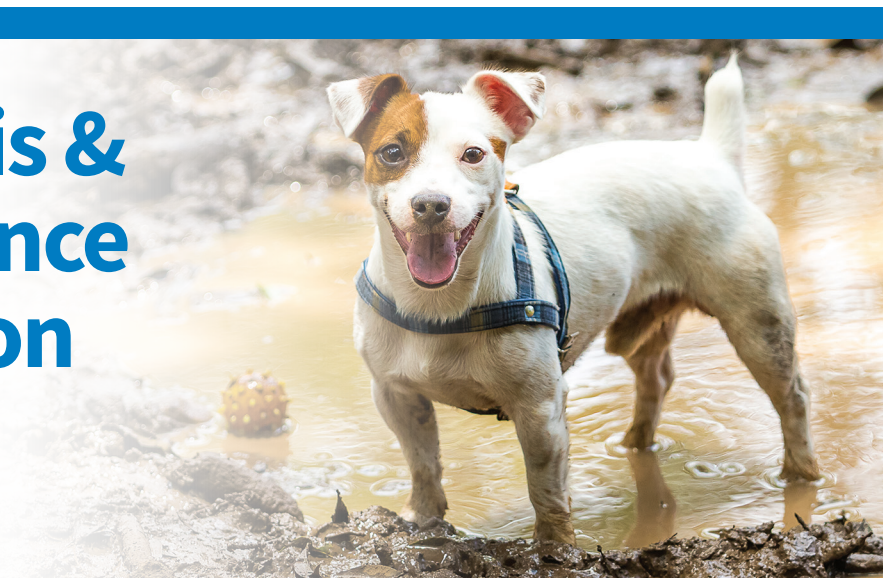


Leptospirosis & the Importance of Vaccination

Brought to you by Elanco



Vaccinating your dog against leptospirosis is an important component of caring for your pet's well-being.

What Is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a serious infectious disease caused by *Leptospira* bacteria. It occurs in domestic pets, wildlife, and humans. Leptospirosis poses a significant threat to dogs, but it is rare for cats to contract the disease. It is considered to be a significant public health threat, as it is zoonotic, which means that infected wildlife and pets can transmit leptospirosis to humans.

Symptoms of Leptospirosis

Some infected pets may show mild symptoms, such as lethargy or decreased appetite, but in others, leptospirosis can cause kidney or liver failure, blood clotting abnormalities, inflammation of the eye, and even death.

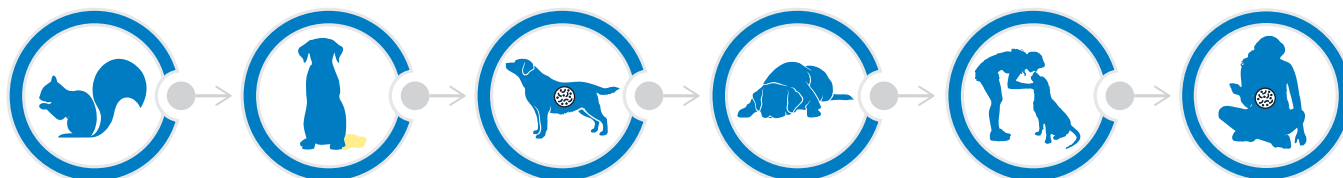
Some animals may show no symptoms at all, but they are still contagious and pose a threat to other animals, including humans.

Is My Dog at Risk?

Leptospirosis can be found worldwide, and all dogs are at risk of being exposed.

Leptospira bacteria are shed through the urine of infected animals, including wildlife like skunks or foxes, farm animals such as horses or pigs, rodents in urban areas, and other dogs. Wildlife serves as the natural reservoir for leptospirosis, which ultimately puts all dogs at risk, even those in more urban and suburban environments.

It is important to understand that all dogs are at risk for leptospirosis, no matter their lifestyle.



Squirrels and other rodents and wildlife can be infected with leptospirosis.

Infected wildlife can leave behind *Leptospira* bacteria in their urine, which dogs may then come in contact with (eg, at dog parks).

Dogs can then become infected after coming into contact with the urine of wildlife and become sick.

When humans share spaces or environments that may be contaminated from a dog infected with leptospirosis, the person can then become infected, even if the dog is not showing symptoms of leptospirosis.

Although these areas are not commonly thought to have a large population of wild animals, the mice and rats in these areas can pose a serious risk to dogs.

Dogs are commonly infected by coming into contact with the urine of infected animals and with moist soil and water sources that have been contaminated with urine. Because the bacteria can survive in water for prolonged periods, dogs can be exposed long after the infected animal has urinated in the water.

YOUR DOG MAY BE EXPOSED TO LEPTOSPIROSIS BY:

- Playing in, walking through, or drinking out of a puddle on the street or at the park
- Coming into direct contact with the urine of an infected rodent, skunk, fox, or other common wildlife seen even in urban and suburban settings
- Swimming or drinking out of a stream or lake
- Hiking, hunting, or spending time on farms
- Coming into contact with the urine of an infected mouse or rat in your home



Leptospirosis can also be contracted by eating an infected animal, by being bitten by an infected animal, and through breeding with an infected animal. If a pregnant animal contracts leptospirosis, they can pass it to their offspring.

It is important to understand that all dogs are at risk for leptospirosis, no matter their lifestyle. Choosing not to vaccinate your dog against leptospirosis puts them at risk for contracting the disease.

How Can I Protect My Pet from Leptospirosis?

Vaccination against leptospirosis is the best way to protect your dog. By vaccinating your dog, you are also helping to protect your family members from the disease by decreasing their risk for potential exposure.

Elanco's ULTRA Duramune® vaccines are manufactured with PureFil® technology, an exclusive process for creating the highly purified ULTRA line of vaccines designed to reduce vaccination reactions associated with unwanted protein and debris and reduce discomfort. The ULTRA line of vaccines provides purified protection against leptospirosis, with few reported side effects.

Make sure to let your veterinarian know you want to vaccinate your dog for leptospirosis and feel comfortable that you are protecting your entire family from this potentially deadly infection.



By vaccinating your dog, you are also helping to protect your family members from the disease by decreasing their risk for potential exposure.