LEPTOSPIROSIS: CLOSER THAN YOU THINK?
**WHAT IS LEPTOSPIROSIS?**

Leptospirosis is a severe bacterial infection transmitted by animals such as:

- Raccoons
- Rodents
- Skunks
- Foxes

Commonly called *Lepto*

**HOW CAN MY DOG BE INFECTED?**

Places where you or your dog are more likely to come into contact with Leptospira bacteria include:

- puddles
- standing pools of water
- ponds
- ditches

The bacteria survives in the environment in warm, temperate conditions such as during the late summer and autumn.

It is transmitted through contact with infected urine of carrier species, so when your dog is drinking from that puddle or sniffing in moist soil, he or she may be at risk.
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

Leptospirosis can cause serious illness and can be fatal if not treated.

When it gets more severe, it can lead to frequent:
- urination
- blood in the urine or stool
- dehydration
- jaundice
- kidney failure

I LIVE IN A CITY OR SUBURBAN AREA. IS IT LESS RISKY FOR MY DOG?

Absolutely not!

As a consequence of the growing urbanization of rural areas (urban sprawl), there is an increase in the number of wildlife species carrying leptospirosis closer to our homes and they have adapted to our urban environment with ease.

Raccoons and rodents (rats and mice) have adapted particularly well to living in cities.

At the beginning, dogs may have signs similar to:

FLU
FEVER
VOMITING
JOINT PAIN
LETHARGY
ANOREXIA

THAT IS PROBABLY WHY WE CALL TORONTO THE “RACCOON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD”!

Scott Heaney / Shutterstock.com

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IS THERE I CAN DO TO PREVENT MY DOG FROM GETTING LEPTOSPIROSIS?

IS MY FAMILY AT RISK?

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transmitted from animals to humans.

If your dog has been diagnosed with leptospirosis, proper precautions should be taken when handling your dog, especially urine.

Your veterinarian can provide additional details on how to safely prevent your human family members from getting leptospirosis.

Luckily, you can prevent leptospirosis in your dog with a vaccine from your veterinarian!

**Vaccinating your dog provides the best protection** against leptospirosis with year-round protection against the disease.

YOUR VETERINARIAN WILL RECOMMEND THE BEST OPTION BASED ON WHERE YOU LIVE AND YOUR DOG’S LIFESTYLE.

Vanguard L4 from Zoetis was developed to prevent this disease, **ask your veterinarian for more information**!
If you think that your dog has leptospirosis, contact your veterinarian.

There are tests available that can confirm the presence of leptospirosis in your dog, such as the Witness® Lepto test from Zoetis.

REMEMBER: it is much easier to prevent the disease than to diagnose and treat a sick dog!

TAKE THIS SURVEY TO FIND OUT YOUR DOG’S RISK FACTORS:

1. Does your dog have access to any standing water? (e.g., lakes, ponds, slow moving rivers)
   - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

2. Does your dog roam rural areas or new residential developments near woods or farmland?
   - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

3. Do you live in an urban area where rats, raccoons and skunks exist?
   - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

4. Do you live near an area that accumulates water after heavy rainfall?
   - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

5. Do you kennel your dog?
   - [ ] YES  [ ] NO

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN.