

Lepto-Lymes Combination Vaccine Now Available!

What is Lepto? Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of dogs and other mammals that primarily affects the liver or kidneys. Leptospira bacteria are carried mainly by rats and other rodents, but can also affect almost any mammalian species. Infected or recovered “carrier” dogs may act as a source of the infection. Ingestion of infected urine or rodent-contaminated garbage is the most important means of transmission. Some forms of bacteria can penetrate damaged or thin skin. For example, when a dog swims in contaminated water, they become infected through their skin. The incubation period is usually 4-12 days.

Signs of Infection

- High Fever
- Lethargy
- Loss of Appetite
- Jaundice (Yellowing of the Skin and Eyes)
- Bloody Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Anorexia
- Ulcers on the Mouth and Tongue
- Frequent Urination

What is Lyme Disease? Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. A spirochete is a type of bacterium. Lyme disease is transmitted to dogs through the bite of a tick. Once in the blood stream, the Lyme disease organism is carried to many parts of the body and is likely to localize in joints. It is now apparent that several common types of tick species carry the disease. The most common type of tick to carry Lyme is the Deer Tick.

Signs of Infection

- Generalized Pain
- Anorexia
- High Fever
- Lameness
- Swollen Joints

Is My Pet at Risk? High risk pets include hunting dogs, active swimmers, and those that live near or in wooded areas. Remember that ticks can be carried in the home, so even indoor pets may be at risk. If you would like to discuss the Lepto-Lyme vaccine or schedule your dog for vaccination, please call your veterinarian.