

# Leptospirosis



Nearly every dog is potentially at risk of exposure—even dogs who live in urban areas



Animals can be infected and spread the disease without showing signs



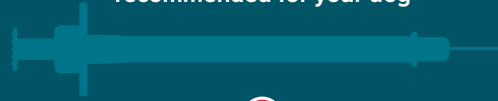
## What are the signs?

Some dogs will get very sick from leptospirosis; others will show mild or no signs. Signs, if they occur, can include increased thirst and urination, vomiting, loss of appetite, excessive panting, and low energy.



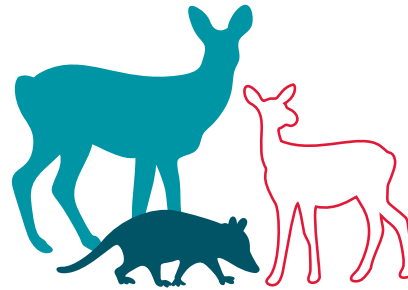
Avoid letting dogs drink or play in slow-moving or standing water—but since bacteria could be shed anywhere by animal carriers, vaccination is the best way to protect dogs

Talk with your veterinarian about whether vaccinating against leptospirosis is recommended for your dog

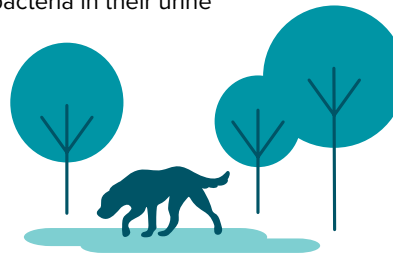


## Who's at risk?

Because lots of different animals can have leptospirosis, many without showing signs, most dogs have some risk of exposure



Wildlife, such as rats, mice, deer, and opossums, and some dogs can be carriers—they aren't sick but shed the bacteria in their urine



Dogs are usually exposed through contact with infected urine or contaminated water or objects



## Vaccination protects dogs—and people!

**Vaccination is highly effective against the most common types of leptospirosis**

Vaccines can't stop exposure, but they can help keep dogs from getting sick—and they can help prevent dogs from shedding *Leptospira* bacteria in their urine that can spread to humans

## How do we know if it's lepto?



Liver or kidney values on bloodwork may be elevated, but this doesn't always happen right away—so many dogs are already very sick by the time anyone suspects leptospirosis



Blood and urine tests can confirm leptospirosis



Treatment with antibiotics, and sometimes hospitalization and IV medications, can be successful, but some dogs become too sick and don't recover

