

Leptospirosis (“Lepto”) and Your Dog

About the disease:

- Bacterial disease which has been seen in the Boulder and Denver Metro area.
- Carried by wildlife (especially raccoons in our area) and transmitted through direct contact with infected urine or contaminated water.
- Exists as 5 strains with no cross-protection between the different strains of Lepto.
- Can cause kidney (and sometimes liver) failure. The disease can be fatal, but if detected and treated early and aggressively, most dogs will recover.
- Treatment involves hospitalization, IV fluid therapy and antibiotics.
- **Can be transmitted from infected dogs to their human family members (through direct contact with infected urine).**



About the vaccine:



- An initial series of 2 injections at 3-4 week intervals, then yearly boosters thereafter.
- Does not provide protection against all 5 strains. The current vaccine provides protection against four strains.
- Associated with more frequent vaccine reactions than other vaccines regularly administered.
- May not provide a full year's protection.

Risk factors for the disease:

- Known cases of “Lepto” diagnosed in your area.
- Sightings of raccoons in your yard or neighborhood.
- Time spent on open space, exposure to puddles or ponds that may be contaminated with infected urine.



It is the policy of Louisville Family Animal Hospital to design an individualized vaccine protocol for each of our patients. Not all dogs need the “Lepto” vaccine, but if you have questions about Leptospirosis or the vaccine against this disease, please don’t hesitate to bring your concerns to the doctor’s attention.

