

How can I prevent my dog from getting leptospirosis?

Prevention is the answer. Vaccinate your dog against leptospirosis and keep their vaccination schedule up to date yearly.

How often is vaccination required?

Vaccination against leptospirosis requires a primary course plus annual re-vaccination.

The timing of vaccinations and booster shots is very important to ensure your dog's immunity does not wane. If your dog has missed its booster, it may need to repeat the initial course of two vaccines again, your vet will advise you on this.

This vaccine is given as an addition to the core vaccination regimen that your dog already receives; the core vaccines provide protection against parvovirus, distemper, canine hepatitis ± parainfluenza virus.

Ask your vet if your dog needs to be protected against leptospirosis as well.

Protect your dog from **Leptospirosis**

> Their health and wellbeing depends on you.



Leptospirosis...

be a mate. Vaccinate.

What is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a contagious and potentially life-threatening bacterial infection caused by spiral-shaped bacteria.

The main host animal for leptospirosis in dogs in New Zealand is the rat. Dogs can contract leptospirosis when they come into contact with the urine from infected rats.

People who are exposed to urine from infected animals may also contract the disease. Long courses of antibiotics and other treatments are usually necessary if leptospirosis is contracted with a protracted recovery time in many cases.

How do dogs get Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis bacteria love water, therefore, your dog may be at risk if it comes into contact with any contaminated water such as;

- Creeks
- Lakes
- Water troughs or anywhere where rats have been e.g. animal food containers.

Once the bacteria get into the the body through broken skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose and mouth), they start to damage body systems and the dog becomes unwell.

What will happen to my dog if it becomes sick from leptospirosis?

Clinical signs of leptospirosis can vary from:

- Loss of appetite
- Dehydration
- Increased thirst
- High fever
- Shivering
- Muscle tenderness
- Yellow appearance to gums or the whites of their eyes
- Vomiting and collapse, which may lead to death

If dogs survive, they often require a lengthy stay in the hospital on a drip and antibiotics.

