



# GET THE FACTS ABOUT LEPTOSPIROSIS



Learn how this disease  
can spread from wild  
animals to pets and humans.

## Lepto cases are on the rise<sup>1</sup>

**Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease found in many animals, including dogs, squirrels, rats, mice, raccoons, horses, pigs and deer.<sup>2-4</sup>**

This bacterial infection is highly contagious, and frequently transmitted to animals through contaminated water like puddles, mud, standing water and lakes.

It's hard to stop dogs from drinking from puddles and lakes. Help us protect ourselves!



# Bacteria is found in water

*Leptospira* bacteria is passed via the urine of animals into water sources.

Your dog can become infected by drinking, swimming in or walking through contaminated water. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream through a cut in the skin or through mucous membranes (such as eyes, nose or mouth).



*Leptospira* can survive for long periods of time in water and wet soil.

# Risks for dogs and humans

Dogs can transmit lepto to other dogs who may otherwise be low risk. Common risk factors include:<sup>5</sup>

- Being outdoors in areas with infected animals
- Contact with wet environments
- Drinking from natural water sources
- Direct contact with infected animals

Risks can increase during summer and early fall, and periods of high rainfall.

# Prevention is preferred

Common signs of lepto can be hard to diagnose:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Jaundice
- Dehydration
- Weakness
- Depression
- Lethargy

Treatment for leptospirosis can be costly and extensive, and range from antibiotics or oxygen support to plasma transfusions and dialysis. Dogs treated too late, or left untreated, can have severe kidney and/or liver disease. It may even be fatal.<sup>5-7</sup>



From rural to urban, every dog is vulnerable.

Talk to your veterinarian if you suspect your dog has lepto, or to find out more about protecting your dog from this contagious disease.



# Help prevent leptospirosis with Vanguard

**Talk to your veterinarian to see how Vanguard provides guaranteed\* defense against leptospirosis for your dog.**

## References

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The Zoetis logo consists of the word "zoetis" in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font. The letter "z" is stylized with a curved underline that extends under the "o".



\*Vanguard<sup>®</sup> Lepto vaccines are backed by the Zoetis Petcare Immunization Support Guarantee (ISG).