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**100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment**  
**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
**Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!**

## Leptospirosis In Dogs

By Kirsten Hawkins

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can affect a dog's blood, liver, and kidneys. The bacteria

that cause the illness are carried primarily by rats and other rodents, but dogs that are infected with the disease can infect other dogs as well. Ingestion of the urine of an infected animal is the most common means of transmission, but the bacteria can be contracted through damaged or thin skin as well.

Leptospirosis is an odd disease that can often show no signs or symptoms at all. In these cases the bacteria are eventually defeated by the dog's natural defenses. Other times, and more often, however, the disease can be life threatening to the infected dog. The three main forms of the disease are hemorrhagic (infection in the blood, causing bleeding), renal (infecting the kidneys), and icteric (infecting the liver).

Hemorrhagic Leptospirosis tends to start with a high fever, loss of appetite, and general lethargy. Small hemorrhages start to occur in the mouth and eyes and the dog may develop extreme bloody vomiting and diarrhea. This form of the disease is often fatal.

Icteric Leptospirosis will often start the same way as the hemorrhagic form; with fever, lethargy, and loss of appetite. The mouth and whites of the eyes will take on a yellow appearance, similar to victims of jaundice. In some cases the dog's skin may also appear yellow and jaundiced.

Renal Leptospirosis also starts with fever, appetite loss, and lethargic depression, but eventually leads to kidney failure.

All three forms of the disease are treatable and curable and all three forms can be potentially fatal. Often dogs that survive renal Leptospirosis will have chronic kidney disease for the rest of their lives.

Treatment is accomplished with the use of antibiotics and, if the disease is caught early enough, is generally successful. Cases of Leptospirosis in North America are fairly rare, thanks to the development of a vaccine. Puppies are inoculated for the disease as early as six weeks of age and receive annual renewal shots to maintain their immunity.

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Vaccination and clean, hygienic conditions are the best way to avoid Leptospirosis in dogs. If the animal is not able to come into contact with disease carrying rats and their urine, the dog is unlikely to become infected, even if unvaccinated. The leptospirosis vaccine is the most likely of all dog vaccinations to cause an adverse reaction in the dog. This reaction is generally mild and most often includes lethargy, loss of appetite, and depression. These effects last only a few days and afterward the dog is fine and, more importantly, protected from the disease.

Leptospirosis is one of the nastier diseases a dog can get and no one wants to see his or her pet suffer with this illness. Fortunately, thanks to the existence of a good vaccine, few dogs have to endure this life threatening illness in today's day and age.

Kirsten Hawkins is a dog lover and animal expert from Nashville, TN. Visit

<http://www.doghealth411.com/>

for more information on dog health, the care of dogs, and dog travel.

### **A Guide To Your Puppy's Health**

**By Randy Jones**

A pup's life is filled with dangers and very easily lost in a big world. However, puppies seem to have an incredible resistance to human and bacterial diseases. The major areas that will concern you most in caring for your pup are: feeding, preventive shots, worming, and a good eye for disease.

The first major question to consider is which vet to take him to. Other dog owners will be glad to give you advice and references. Use pretty much the same criteria you would in choosing your own family doctor, a good manner with dogs, a willingness to discuss symptoms and treatment, and a gentle touch with his patient. But whatever you do, do not wait until the last minute to phone frantically around the city with a sick puppy on your hands.

Your next concern is preventive shots against distemper, hepatitis, rabies and leptospirosis. Distemper is a prevalent disease of dogs and many die needlessly due to this ailment. Along with hepatitis, which can literally have no symptoms, rabies which is always a threat from wild animals, and leptospirosis that can destroy the kidneys, are major threats to your puppy's life. But all are preventable with vaccinations.

Worms of various varieties are also a particular problem in puppies. There are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, and many others. Diagnosis of worm infestation in your puppy is something which should be left strictly to your veterinarian, as should worm treatment. Most veterinarians will do a stool examination of any young puppy under their care as a matter of routine.

In general, the healthy puppy is characterized by all the familiar outward signs of playfulness, alertness, bright eyes, good appetite, and healthy coat. The first signs of illness you will see in your

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pup are the reversal of these. If his appetite falls off sharply, if he becomes listless, if his eyes are dull or his coat seems coarse and dry, something is wrong. At the first indication of a problem, you should consult your veterinarian. Older dogs have a stronger constitution due to their size and certain immunities that have developed since after all they were puppies too!

Randy Jones and his partner Brent Jones have been in the pet industry for a long time. Recently they formed

<http://www.joncopets.com>

. On the site, customers can shop for the latest dog collars, dog

clothes, pet supplies and more. Check them out at

<http://www.joncopets.com>



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