



Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic

Leptospirosis

What you need to know.

*What is **Leptospirosis**? A bacterial disease found in most animals, including wildlife (deer, raccoons, opossums, skunk, rats and other rodents) and livestock (cattle, pigs and sheep). The bacteria are passed via the urine into water sources, where they reside and reproduce. This disease has been on local newscasts in the last couple years.*

- *It is prevalent in rural, suburban and urbanized areas. This includes apartments, dog park areas, etc.*
- *Any dog can become infected by drinking, swimming in or walking through contaminated water.*
- *Risk is higher during the summer and early fall months.*
- *People are also at risk of getting Leptospirosis.*

You may reduce the risk of Leptospirosis with the following preventative measures:

- *Ask your veterinarian about vaccinating your dog. (Very important in farm and water (hunting) dogs.)*
- *Avoid stagnant water.*

What are the signs of Leptospirosis?

- *Flu-like symptoms: fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, weakness, depression, lethargy*
- *Jaundice - yellow gums and whites of eyes.*