

So Your Dog Has **Leptospirosis**...

Leptospirosis is an infectious bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals. When leptospirosis is suspected in your dog, some precautionary steps are recommended.

The infectious leptospirosis organisms usually are not shed in urine until 7 to 10 days after your dog is exposed to the bacteria, but you and other pets in the household may be at risk from the original source of contamination. If your dog is being treated for leptospirosis, you and family members are considered at low risk of contracting the disease from your dog but remain at risk if exposed to areas that were already contaminated by your dog.

If your dog has been confirmed or is suspected to have leptospirosis, please use the following precautions:

- Avoid direct contact with urine.
- Keep your dog away from standing water while it is urinating.
- If possible, have your dog urinate on a concrete surface that can be cleaned with a 3% to 10% (1:30 to 1:10 dilution) of bleach solution.
- Wash your hands after having contact with your dog.
- Wear gloves when cleaning up urine.
- Inquire whether other pets in your home need to be treated and vaccinated.
- Seek medical attention if you or family members become ill at or around the same time your dog was diagnosed.

Steps you can take to help prevent leptospirosis:

- Have your pets examined by your veterinarian and vaccinated for the disease.
- Avoid contact with animal urine or bodily fluids, especially if there are any cuts or abrasion on your skin.
- Do not swim in, walk in, or swallow water that you suspect has been contaminated by animal urine.
- Wear protective clothing or footwear near soil or water that may be contaminated with animal urine.