

LEPTOSPIROSIS ALERT! MAY 2017

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease of dogs and other mammals (including humans) that particularly affects the liver or kidneys.

Lepto is spread through contact or ingestion of infected urine, including wet soil contaminated with urine from infected dogs and/or wildlife.

Symptoms range from mild flu-like signs (fever, lethargy, anorexia) to kidney failure and death.

At least two (2) dogs in the **Tucson area** are confirmed to have Lepto and at least five (5) other dogs are suspect. As a result of the confirmed cases and the multiple confirmed cases earlier this year in Phoenix, the Arizona State Veterinarian is recommending all dogs, but in particular **high risk dogs**, in Arizona be vaccinated for Lepto.

High risk dogs include but are not limited to dogs who: go boarding/grooming; go to daycare; go to dog shows; go hiking and/or wading/swimming in natural waters; live in rural areas with an abundance of wildlife and natural/stagnant water beds or live in areas prone to flooding.

Due to the earlier outbreak in Phoenix, **Sunrise Pet Clinic** has been vaccinating high risk dogs for several months and the vaccine has been well tolerated by all of our patients thus far. However, pets reactive to other vaccines should have a doctor consultation prior to any Lepto vaccine administration.

Lepto has never been a major problem in Arizona therefore most dogs living here have never been vaccinated for it. What this means is an unvaccinated dog will need to have an initial vaccine and then a booster vaccine 3-4 weeks later for the vaccine to be fully effective.

If your high risk dog has been examined at SPC in the last 6 months (December 2016-May 2017) and is generally healthy, please schedule two "vaccine only" appointments with a Certified Veterinary Technician, at your earliest convenience. The vaccine cost at SPC is currently \$18.55/ea.

If your high risk dog has **not** been examined at SPC in the last 6 months, please schedule an appointment with the first available doctor at your earliest convenience.

Call 520-299-5044 today.

Thank you.

For more in depth information about Leptospirosis visit these pages:

<https://agriculture.az.gov/sites/default/files/Leptospirosis%20Vet%20Fact%20Sheet%202.3.17.pdf>

<https://agriculture.az.gov/office-state-veterinarian>