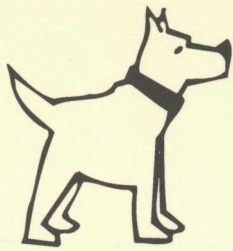


**Waterford
Veterinary
Hospital, P.C.**

4525 Highland Road (M-59)
Waterford, Michigan 48328
Phone 674-3101

**Ortonville
Animal
Clinic**

959 S. Ortonville Rd. (M-15)
Ortonville, Michigan 48462
Phone 627-2895



EMERGING DISEASE ALERT



Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that occurs in both wild and domestic animals. It is transmitted through the urine of infected animals. Initial exposure is through contaminated water, food, bedding and soil. Wild animals, such as moles, skunks, raccoons, and field mice can carry the disease. We have been seeing this disease in our suburban-backyard dogs. We have not diagnosed any cases in cats.

Symptoms of an active infection of Leptospirosis include; fever, depression, decreased appetite, vomiting, reluctance to move, diarrhea, and dehydration. Dogs develop acute kidney and/or liver failure and may die despite intensive treatment.

While one traditionally used animal vaccine for dogs includes *Leptospira canicola* and *Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae*, the cases we are now seeing involve a different strain - *Leptospira grippotyphosa*.

The doctors at our clinic recommend a newly developed vaccine that includes this particular strain of *Leptospira*. While any vaccine can potentially cause a low incidence of reactions, this increasing number of cases and severity of the disease would make the inclusion of this vaccine in our preventative medicine program justified. To be fully effective your dog will need two vaccinations three weeks apart. It will then be part of your dog's annual vaccination program.

Please call for an appointment at your convenience to protect your pet against this serious disease. During the last month, our staff has been vaccinating our own dogs with the new vaccine and have not observed any vaccine reactions. Our main concern was to assure our clients that this vaccine is indeed safe and that we have encountered no side effects. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office.

Waterford Veterinary Hospital - (248) 674-3101

Ortonville Animal Clinic - (248) 627-2895



The Staff of Waterford Veterinary Hospital &
Ortonville Animal Clinic

