

NOTICE: LEPTOSPIROSIS ALERT 11/18/21

In the last 24 hours we at Integrative Animal Health Center have been notified by another local emergency center of 4 cases of Leptospirosis they are currently treating, and we have one sick patient that we are highly suspicious has been infected with the bacterium. Also, The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources reported two confirmed cases of leptospirosis in dogs from Bolton. The dogs have visited the following areas within 2 weeks of getting sick: Bolton: Bolton Commons, Harvard: Harvard Commons, Bower Springs, Hudson: paved trail off of Washington St.

Below is an email that was previously sent out by Tufts University:

Leptospirosis Alert What is leptospirosis?

- Leptospirosis is a disease caused by a bacterium (genus *Leptospira*) that can adversely affect your dog and be transmitted to humans.
- Wildlife, including raccoons, skunks, foxes, and rodents (mice, rats, moles), carry these bacteria that are shed in their urine.
- Dogs can become infected by coming in contact with the urine from wildlife or contaminated water or soil.
- The disease can rapidly become life-threatening to dogs, targeting kidneys, liver, blood vessels, but also lungs and heart.

Concern

2021 has been a particularly warm and wet year, an ideal environment for leptospirosis bacteria to thrive. Also, this has been a great acorn year, so all the wildlife are about stocking up for winter and moving through backyards. This is the reason we see an increase in cases in the fall and early winter.

Current situation

Tufts University Cummings School of Medicine is seeing a marked increase of severe leptospirosis cases this year. Many of the cases have multiple organ involvement requiring intensive care and treatment (e.g. dialysis).

How you can protect your dog:

Please review the links below to assess your dog's potential risk factors based on their lifestyle and make an educated decision on whether vaccination makes sense for your pet.

The leptospirosis vaccination offers protection against 4 of the Leptospirosis Serovars your pet may encounter but is not a 100% guarantee against infection as there are other strains that could potentially infect your pet.

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Convenient Hours:

Monday-Thursday	8-5
Friday	8-5
Saturday	8-12

If you have questions please call the office-978-779-2955

Here are links to more information on Leptospirosis:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/leptospirosis>

<https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/pets/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/resources/index.html>

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951453>

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4952105>