

**ONTARIO SPCA**  
AND HUMANE SOCIETY

<b>Disease Name:</b>	<b>Leptospirosis</b>	
<b>Agent:</b>	Leptospirosis spp multiple serovars	
<b>Clinical Signs:</b>	<p>Animals - Asymptomatic, severe cases can cause vomiting, depression, anorexia, fever, ocular and nasal discharge/coughing, kidney and liver disease, severe depression and death.</p> <p>Humans - Prolonged fever, chills, weakness, abdominal and muscle pain, and sometimes jaundice and anemia. Fatality is low but the disease is especially dangerous for the elderly, people with compromised immune systems, and people with kidney disease.</p>	
<b>Susceptible domestic species</b>	Dogs with a history of hunting, or exposure to livestock/wildlife, are at increased risk. Although leptospirosis is uncommon in dogs, disease in dogs and humans appears to be on the increase in recent years.	
<b>Zoonotic?</b>	Yes	
<b>Diagnostic tests:</b>	Serology	PCR test has been developed and may be available from selected labs
<b>Test sensitivity (false negatives)</b>	May be negative in first week to 10 days of disease so suspect cases should be treated as positive until confirmed otherwise.	Recent vaccination for leptospirosis may cause false positive results on serology.
<b>Test specificity (false positives)</b>	Rare. Cannot effectively test in first 7-10 days of infection.	
<b>Vaccine available?</b>	Yes	
<b>Vaccine efficacy</b>	Good in dogs over 10 weeks of age. Annual revaccination required. Vaccine helps to prevent disease severity but may not completely prevent disease.	
<b>Excreted in:</b>	Infected animal urine	
<b>Mode of transmission:</b>	Urine, most common route of infection is through contact with water or soil contaminated by the urine of infected livestock or rodents.	
<b>Disinfection</b>	Routine disinfectants effective, especially with sources of urine. Rodent control essential.	
<b>Incubation</b>		
<b>Post recovery shedding</b>	Dogs can shed bacteria intermittently in urine for months even after recovery, direct transmission from urine or aborted tissue may occur and is increased in crowded kennel situations.	
<b>Carrier state?</b>	No	
<b>Treatment</b>	Extended antibiotic therapy	
<b>PPE required</b>	Gloves, gowns, impermeable shoe covers (urine, blood) and mask.	