

# Lake Country Veterinary Care Newsletter



May 2009

## Let's Talk About:

### ◆ Leptospirosis

## What is Lepto?

We would like to relay the importance of a disease, not only to your pets, but also to people. This zoonotic disease is called Leptospirosis. It has worldwide significance and can affect people and many animal species. The organism that causes Leptospirosis is a bacteria that can be transmitted by several different routes:

- \* Stagnant or slow moving water such as puddles or ponds
- \* Veneral or placental transfer (through breeding or giving birth)
- \* Bite wounds
- \* Ingestion of infected tissues

Once in the environment, leptopires can survive for several months. Flooding or excessive rainfall can increase outbreaks. Leptopires can penetrate mucous membranes, cuts on skin and water softened skin. They multiply rapidly after entering the bloodstream.

There is a vaccine designed specifically for Leptospirosis and it can be given separately or in combination with the Distemper vaccine. One or the other should be done annually. Over the years, this particular organism has evolved and vaccines have had to be revised.

Symptoms can vary from no clinical signs to liver and kidney involvement, pain, stiffness, vomiting, disorientation and fever. Leptospirosis can also affect reproduction and cause abortion or infertility. Cats do not seem to be as affected. Exposure rate has been estimated at less than 10% and of course, outdoor cats do have more chance of exposure.

It is important to keep your dog vaccinated for Leptoprosis on an annual basis. We stock vaccine that is continually updated for the most prevalent serovars. Treatment for this disease includes antibiotics to clear the bacteria and support for organ function during the recovery from infection. We hope this has been informative for you and remember to not drink out of puddles!!

## Paws for HAWS

April 27th through May 9th, we will be selling Paws for HAWS. This is a fund raiser for our local animal shelter and is designed to include people that cannot participate in their annual Walkathon. The paws are for display here at the clinic with name of person or pet. Cost is only \$1.00 and all proceeds go to support HAWS and all the homeless pets.

### ***We Appreciate Your Referrals!***

*A \$10 Credit will be added to your account for referring others to Lake Country Vet.  
Thank you for your support!*

### **Great Tip!**

A tidbit from a client we would like to pass along is regarding getting medication into your pet. Sometimes it can be a struggle. Use a strongly seasoned meat such as pepperoni. The spices completely camouflage any smell of the medication and it is just slippery enough to slide down.

*"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive."*

*~ Gilda Radner*



Abby