

Performance Dog Medicine A Mobile Veterinary Clinic

Providing Advice and Care for the Canine Competitor

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Assisted by Lorin Dewees

Leptospirosis is caused by an organism that we can vaccinate against with our 4 way vaccine. Leptospirosis is not considered a core vaccine but since the newer 4 way vaccine was developed more and more specialists are recommending the vaccine. The primary reservoir hosts for most *Leptospira* serovars are the urine of wild mammals, particularly rodents. Reservoir hosts among domestic animals include cattle, pigs, sheep and dogs. The disease is LESS common in sheep than pigs or cattle. The disease is most prevalent in the Southeastern US, followed by Northeast and Midwest, followed by the **Western US**, then by arid Southwest areas, where it doesn't occur or occurs in 1 in 50,000 to 1 in 100,000 dogs.

Leptospirosis causes kidney failure. It is usually treatable but needs to be recognized. If a dog is exposed to the organism he or she usually mounts a successful immune response and fights off the infection. Only some come down with the disease.

I started vaccinating my dogs for Leptospirosis after reading the current paper from ACVIM, discussing the disease with a researcher at UC Davis and a specialist in the East Bay. She lives next to a cattle ranch and her dog contracted Leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis needs to be repeated annually.

We have vaccines with us but it helps to let us know ahead of time.

Thanks,

Feel free to contact us with questions!

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