

Dear Pet Owner:

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that is carried by common wildlife and rodents. This disease causes high fever, jaundice, vomiting, and in severe cases, fatal liver and kidney damage. Current vaccines against canine leptospirosis have been available for many years and offer protection against two different strains of the disease. However recent research has shown that other strains of leptospirosis have emerged and are on the rise in peri-urban areas. Areas considered to be peri-urban are those addresses that are urban now but in the recent past have been rural. Because leptospiral vaccines are strain-specific, older vaccines are not able to protect against these newer strains.

Fortunately, a new vaccine has been introduced that offers dogs protection against the older strains of leptospirosis and two additional strains, *L. grippityphosa* and *L. Pomona*. We are now using this vaccine at Falls Church Animal Hospital to protect your dog from this re-emerging disease. Canine leptospirosis is a dangerous threat to dogs, and we are now recommending this new vaccine for our canine patients.

This vaccine is given in a two-dose series. Your dog will receive an initial dose of vaccine followed by a booster given two to three weeks after the first. After this initial series, the vaccine will be given as part of your dog's annual vaccinations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. Please make sure to schedule an appointment for your dog's leptospirosis booster today.

Sincerely,

Your veterinary medical team at Falls Church Animal Hospital