

Veterinarians Warn Leptospirosis is Killing Some Suburban Dogs and Making Others Sick

Dr. Tony Kremer Explains Why Leptospirosis is a Danger to Pets & Humans

CHICAGO – October 23, 2014 -- An outbreak this fall of the deadly bacteria leptospirosis in the Chicago suburbs has Chicago veterinarian Dr. Tony Kremer, concerned for the welfare of your pets and you.

At the six [Kremer Veterinary Service](#) clinics throughout the west and southwest suburbs, veterinarians have treated several cases of dogs showing signs of leptospirosis and two pets have succumbed to the disease. Recent published reports indicate a clinic in Buffalo Grove, IL has seen four cases in the last week. Three of the cases have resulted in the dogs deaths.

“It is highly unusual and quite concerning that a number of animals are showing up at our clinics with symptoms of leptospirosis,” said Kremer. “It is critical for owners to bring their pets to their vet the moment they notice signs their dogs may be sick. If your pet is lethargic, has no interest in food or is jaundice, take your animal to the vet. If you bring the pet in early enough we can treat them with an antibiotic and save their lives.”

LEPTOSPIROSIS SYMPTOMS

PET SYMPTOMS	HUMAN SYMPTOMS *CDC
Fever	High Fever
Sore Muscles	Headache
Shivering	Chills
Lack of Appetite	Muscle Aches
Increased Thirst	Vomiting
Rapid Dehydration	Jaundice
Difficulty Breathing	Abdominal Pain
Yellow Skin	Diarrhea
Vomiting	Rash

“Leptospirosis is incredibly contagious and is transferrable to humans,” said Kremer. “Dogs simply walking in a back yard can walk through rat urine and pick up the bacteria. They then bring it into your home. Now, you and your family are at risk.”

Once the bacteria has infected the animal, leptospores spread throughout the entire body, reproducing in the liver, kidneys, central nervous system, eyes, and reproductive system.

HOW LEPTOSPIROSIS IS SPREAD

Pets can be infected by sniffing Rat/Raccoon Urine
Infected Urine Can wash into standing water, dogs drink in it or wade in it.
Pets can also eat infected materials
Can be passed through a bite wound from animal to animal

Leptospirosis is preventable. “Often times, owners who are on a three-year vaccination schedule fail to bring their animal in for the leptospirosis vaccine which needs to be given each year,” says Kremer.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 23, 2014 12:01 A.M CST

According to Iowa State University and the Center for Food Security and Public Health, leptospirosis has an incubation period that may be as short as a few days and with clinical signs appearing between five to fifteen days.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Tony, please contact Ripson Communications at (312) 952-7394.

About Dr. Tony Kremer

Dr. Tony is a prominent Veterinarian based in Chicago, Illinois who currently operates six veterinary hospitals in the Chicago area and Columbus, Ohio (<http://drtony.com/>).

A frequent contributing guest of Chicago television and radio media outlets, Dr. Tony graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate course work at The Ohio State University in Orthopedic Surgery. This special interest in Orthopedic Surgery has led to performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well as complicated fracture repair in all of his practices.

Dr. Tony graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate course work at The Ohio State University in Orthopedic Surgery. This special interest in Orthopedic Surgery has led to performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well as complicated fracture repair in all of his practices.

Dr. Tony has founded three scholarships for veterinary students who have financial need. He is also a member of the Veterinary News Network and a certified Veterinary Journalist.

###

Media Contact:

Lisa Ripson
Ripson Communications
Lisa.ripton@riptoncommunications.com
312-952-7394 mobile
312-493-5921 office