



**PARKSIDE** veterinary group

## LEPTOSPIROSIS info

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by bacteria and can occur in three forms. It may be transmitted directly between dogs in close contact or via the urine of infected rats. It results in a serious disease, which can be fatal. The disease is also important as it can be transmitted to man.

The disease usually affects the kidneys *or* liver and may present initially with varying signs. Liver or kidney failure may result. If your dog or puppy shows any abnormal symptoms, you should arrange for Parkside to examine your dog and start any necessary treatment. If your dog has the disease, antibiotic therapy is important along with supportive treatment. This will depend on the severity of the individual dog's condition, but early treatment is vital to prevent permanent liver or kidney damage. Despite treatment, many dogs do not survive. Routine vaccinations protect against leptospirosis and this is important to prevent your dog or puppy from being infected with this potentially fatal organism. Your dog will need an initial course of usually two vaccinations, followed by an *annual* booster.