

Canine Infectious Diseases.



Common diseases that can harm your dog and why vaccinations and regular health examinations are so important. Many of the viral and bacterial diseases listed here can be avoided with preventative health care. Ask your veterinarian about vaccinations, internal parasite and flea and tick prevention that will help keep your dog healthy and happy.

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Leptospirosis

- Bacterial disease that can cause disease in the liver, kidneys and other organs.
- Transmission: Through contact with an infected animal's urine.
- Signs: Fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, joint and muscle pain.
- Treatment: Fluid therapy and antibiotics.
- Prognosis: Acute renal failure occurs in more than 80% of dogs with clinically significant disease.
- Vaccination: Recommended for all dogs over 12 weeks where disease is prevalent.



Lyme Disease

- Acquired from infected ticks by both dogs and humans. Damages joints, kidneys, and other tissues.
- Transmission: By the bite of an infected tick.
- Signs: Lameness, fever, lack of appetite, lethargy.
- Treatment: Antibiotics.
- Prognosis: Infection can persist.
- Vaccination: Recommended for all dogs prior to tick season in areas where disease is present.



Rabies

- Acute viral brain disease that can infect any mammal.
- Transmission: Via the bite of a rabid animal (often a skunk, raccoon, or bat).
- Signs: Sudden, significant change in behavior (irritability, aggression, fear), unexplained paralysis.
- Treatment: None. any unvaccinated animal exposed to rabies should be euthanized or strictly isolated immediately (follow state and local laws)
- Prognosis: Always fatal once clinical signs appear.
- Vaccination: Recommended for all dogs, mandated by law.