



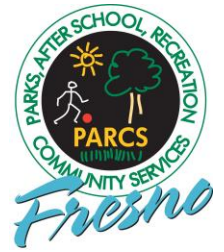
Department of Public Health

www.fcdph.org

Public Health Notice

Leptospirosis

July 10, 2015



Several cases of leptospirosis in dogs have been reported to the Department of Public Health that have visited local dog parks. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both pets and humans. No human cases have been reported.

Leptospirosis is spread through the urine of an infected animal and can cause illness to both pets and humans. The bacteria can survive in the soil and water for weeks or months. Humans and animals can become infected through direct contact with urine, and water or soil contaminated with urine.

The most common kind of transmission of leptospirosis from pets to humans is through direct or indirect contact with contaminated animal urine. The bacteria can enter the body through broken skin and / or through the mucous membranes inside of the mouth, nose or eyes. Leptospirosis is rarely spread from person to person.

The signs and symptoms of leptospirosis vary and sometimes pets and humans do not have any symptoms. When symptoms do appear, in humans they usually start 10 days after being infected, and in dogs 4 – 12 days.

Common human symptoms:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Eye pain and/or redness

Most human infections are mild and self-limited, but severe illness and death can occur, particularly in individuals with compromised immunity.

Steps to prevent Leptospirosis:

- Do not share your dog's wading pool with other dogs
- Wear closed shoes when visiting dog parks
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after playing with, handling, or picking up after your pet
- Vaccinate your pet with all the required vaccines including the leptospirosis vaccine
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet is ill to rule out leptospirosis and/or obtain necessary treatment

For more information on Leptospirosis visit www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis or call 559-600-3357