

## Client Information: LEPTO 4 VACCINES

You may have noticed recent publicity in the media or heard from other pet owners about the new Lepto 4 vaccine from MSD Animal Health.

Leptospirosis is a disease that can lead to severe liver and kidney disease in dogs. It is caused by spiral bacteria called *Leptospira interrogans*, which are spread in the urine of infected dogs - as well as rats, mice and a variety of other mammals. This disease is important as it can also cause Weil's disease in humans.

There are more than 5 types or 'serogroups' of *Leptospira*. We currently vaccinate against two of the most common using the existing Lepto 2 vaccine. These are serogroups *canicola* and *icterohaemorrhagiae*

The new Lepto 4 vaccine gives additional protection:

Reduction of infection with serogroup *Australis*

Reduction of infection and spread of serogroup *Grippityphosa*

**Currently in the practice, we have opted not to start routine vaccinations with Lepto 4, for a variety of reasons:**

There is currently little evidence to suggest that the other types of *Leptospira* are significantly prevalent in the UK - much of the data is obtained from studies in Europe.

After the second vaccination, it is three weeks until your puppy is fully protected by the vaccine (under the current licence), compared to only one week with the current vaccine. This delays taking the puppy out and about for socialisation at the crucial age of under twelve weeks. An example vaccination protocol is shown on the reverse of this page.

Lepto 4 is not compatible with our other main vaccine, and so we would have to change to another type that does not include protection against parainfluenza virus.

**We do have a stock of Lepto 4 vaccines and we will be happy to vaccinate your dog with Lepto 4 if you request it.**

We keep up to date with new evidence as it appears and will adapt our vaccination protocols in the future as necessary.

***Please speak to one of our vets if you would like any more information regarding vaccination***