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Recent Outbreak of Leptospirosis

Detroit's Channel 4 recently covered a story of a dog that died of leptospirosis. They announced that the number of cases of leptospirosis has tremendously increased in the past few months in the cities of Warren, Roseville, Eastpointe and St. Clair Shores.

The full story can be accessed here-- <http://www.clickondetroit.com/family/24735118/detail.html>

In light of this story, Southpointe would like to share the following information about leptospirosis:

- We recommend that most dogs should be vaccinated against leptospirosis. A Southpointe veterinarian will make recommendations based upon past vaccine history and life style of the patient.
- Leptospirosis is spread from the urine of infected animals and standing water (puddles which may be contaminated with urine). Leptospirosis can also be transmitted to humans from their pets if they come into contact with the infected urine.
- Leptospirosis is carried by mammals ie; dogs, rodents such as mice and rats, raccoons, skunks, opossums, cows, and pigs.
- Cats can become infected with the bacteria that causes leptospirosis but they are typically only subclinically affected (which means they do not show outward clinical signs of illness). Cats can shed the bacteria and infect the environment for a time after exposure.
- Clinical signs can include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes with blood), kidney failure and liver failure. Some animals may show mild signs while others may be seriously ill.

If you have any additional questions about leptospirosis, please feel free to contact us.