



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health

Public Health Recommendations for Veterinarians Treating Leptospirosis Infected Dogs

Preventing transmission to humans:

- Veterinary personnel should take appropriate precautions when handling known or suspected infected animals.
 - Prevent exposure of skin or mucous membranes to urine or blood
- Isolation is recommended (if possible), if not...
 - Barrier precautions should be used:
 - Allow to urinate in designated areas that can be adequately cleaned and disinfected. (Leptospirosis is killed by all common disinfectants)
- Owners of dogs (families):
 - Advise of risks of leptospirosis and exposure to urine and other bodily fluids (recommend this during entire 14 day period of treatment)
 - Limit exposure to the infectious animal to limited number of caretakers
 - Wear gloves when cleaning up urine and bedding
 - Wash hands after handling the dog
 - Self-surveillance: People who have been exposed should do self-surveillance for any type of febrile illness for one month after potential exposure to potentially infectious secretions or excretions of infected canines. Advise physician of potential contact with an infected animal.

Prophylaxis in asymptomatic dogs exposed to leptospirosis patients or exposed to same suspected environmental source:

- Treat prophylactically with oral administration of doxycycline for 14 days.

General treatment recommendations: (Note: These are general recommendations based on several reputable sources. Nevertheless, there may be other recommended and effective treatment regimens.)

- Antibiotics (eliminate shedding and carrier phases of infection)
 - Initial therapy with penicillin followed by a two week course of Doxycycline
 - Doxycycline (5 mg/kg, PO, every 12 hours, for 2 weeks)
 - Animals that cannot receive doxycycline can be treated with enrofloxacin or clarithromycin to address the carrier phase
- Supportive
 - Fluid therapy
 - Correction of acid-base disorders
 - Prevention of nausea
 - Appetite stimulants
 - Hepatic support medications and foods
 - Phosphate binders
- If kidneys affected, treat kidney failure (hemodialysis, hyperdiuresis with fluid therapy)