

WEILS DISEASE (Leptospirosis)

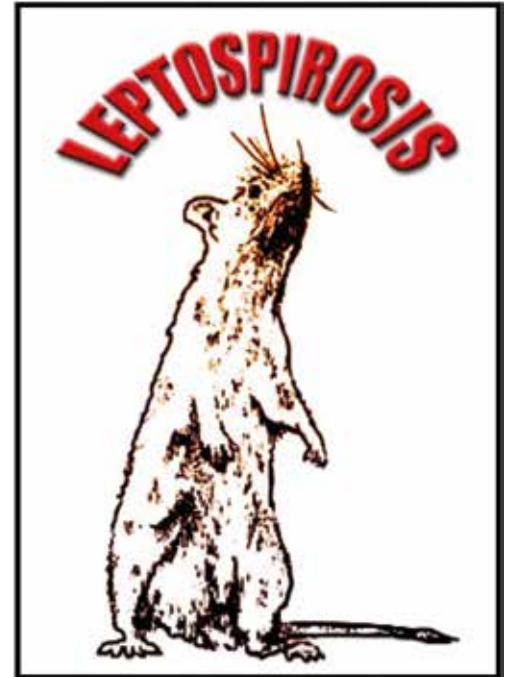
Leptospirosis is a type of bacterial infection that is spread by animals. It is caused by a strain of bacteria called leptospira.

There are two main types of leptospirosis infection:

- **Mild Leptospirosis** is where a person develops flu-like symptoms, such as headache, chills and muscle pain.
- **Severe Leptospirosis** is where a person goes on to develop severe, sometimes life-threatening symptoms, including organ failure and internal bleeding. This is caused by the bacteria infecting major organs, such as the liver and kidneys.

You can catch leptospirosis by touching soil or water contaminated with the urine of wild animals infected with the leptospira bacteria.

The bacteria can get into your body through cuts and scratches and through the lining of your mouth, throat and eyes.



Animals known to be carriers of leptospira bacteria include:

- Rodents, particularly Rats
- Cows
- Pigs
- Dogs

How can I prevent it?

- Do not attempt to touch rats.
- Cover all cuts and broken skin with waterproof plasters before and during work.

Wear protective clothing.

- Follow Good Hygiene Practice.
- Always wash your hands prior to eating, drinking or smoking.
- Always wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

What else should I do?

Keep up to date with your immunisations and report any such symptoms / illness to your General Practitioner and line manager..

ALWAYS MAINTAIN GOOD LEVELS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE