



Spotted News

FEBRUARY 2007

Have a Happy Valentine's Day

- *DALLY UPDATE*
- "Spot SOS"
- *Adoption Spotlight*
- *leptospirosis*

SOS sends our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Simonne Lasch who lost her husband, Walter last week. They adopted Sarah in Dec of 2003.

DALLY UPDATE

We are sad to announce that Cricket (Swing,) who was adopted by the Austin family in 2002, has passed to Rainbow Bridge on Dec. 21 during an epileptic seizure. Our thoughts are with you.

LOOKING FOR A HOME

Copper is a Liver female. She was brought to the shelter as a stray, but she doesn't appear to have been out in the elements at all. In fact one toe nail appears to have some pink polish on it. Copper is a great dog. She listens well and knows many commands. We aren't sure on her age, but we think she is older than eight. We will be taking her into the vet for a check-up soon.

FOUND A HOME

We had a busy January for adoptions, and we are so excited to announce the additions to our pack.

Monty went to his forever home with Helen in West Allis.

Sargent went home to previous adopter, Cheryl and dal brother, Boomer.

Gemini went to his permanent home with Mike and Lynette.

Siren went to his new home with Tom and Mary in West Allis.



“SPOT SOS”

Great Lakes Family Pet Expo. February 10, 2007 at the Milwaukee County Sports Complex. 6000 W. Ryan Rd. Franklin. The event will run from 10-5. There are going to be many vendors available for shopping, plus an entertainment stage with a variety of shows. We would love to have adopters stop by our booth and say Hi. Anyone that would like to stay for an hour and help work the Spinning Wheel, we have extra tickets to get you in for free.

International Kennel Club Show at McCormick Place in Chicago on February 24th and 25th. This is a large event that draws thousands of people. It is one of our largest fundraising events and we need help in staffing our booth for 2 days. Please let us know if you may be available to help. The IKC show is a lot of fun and so much to see. If you would like directions or more info, please email us at sosdalrescue@earthlink.net

ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT

Beau

I just had to share these pictures. To set the stage, I was gone for about a half hour - had to take Lizzie to work and pick up a prescription.

Dennis is working and Jimmy is spending the night at a friend's. I had been grocery shopping earlier and hadn't unpacked the bag that had the flour in it, (which I had left on the floor in the kitchen).

This is what I came home to....the mail had been scattered on the floor and Beau ripped apart the bag of flour - all 5 pounds of it.

The pictures tell it all.
Karen



New Forms of Old Disease Threaten U.S. Dogs, CU Veterinarians Warn

By Roger Segelken

A potentially fatal bacterial disease that damages the liver and kidneys of dogs, humans and other animals -- leptospirosis -- is appearing in new forms in the United States. Citing an alarming increase in leptospirosis cases, bacteriologists in the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine's Diagnostic Laboratory are urging dog owners to watch for symptoms of the disease until improved vaccines are available.

"We're especially concerned about some of the new types of lepto, such as *grippotyphosa*, that we first documented in the New York City metropolitan area in dogs, but which probably is not confined there. We're finding *grippotyphosa* in the Northeast and in other areas of the country," said Patrick McDonough, a veterinary bacteriologist at the Cornell Diagnostic Laboratory. That laboratory is the official diagnostic center for animal disease control in New York state and each year conducts more than 700,000 diagnostic tests for animals of all species, including humans.

While currently available vaccines do protect against some serovars (serological varieties) of leptospirosis, newer serovars, such as *grippotyphosa* and *pomona*, are not included in that protection, McDonough noted, saying: "There is room for improvement in the vaccination protocols." Worldwide, there are more than 200 known serovars of leptospirosis infecting many kinds of mammals, including rodents and cattle.

Leptospirosis is spread by a spirochete (or spiral shaped) bacteria called leptospire in the urine of rodents and other infected animals, as well as in water, such as pond water. The leptospire enters the body through mucous membranes or through abraded skin.

For dog owners, the first signs of leptospirosis in a pet often are several days of anorexia, vomiting, lethargy, depression, muscle pain and sometimes diarrhea or bloody urine. Veterinarians examining dogs with leptospirosis find depression, fever, dehydration, jaundice and abdominal pain. The disease damages the animal's liver and kidneys, sometimes resulting in renal failure and death.

If the disease is caught in time, McDonough said, it can be successfully treated with penicillin and -- when the kidneys have recovered -- with a lengthy course of tetracycline drugs. During their recovery, dehydrated animals need intravenous fluids and "good, supportive nursing care," he added.

"Until vaccines are upgraded to include these new types of lepto, we're advising dog owners to watch for flu-like illnesses in their pets," McDonough said. "If the dog has been exposed to the urine of another domestic animal or a wild animal, either directly or in ponds or run-off water that collect urine, and if you notice these flu-like signs, the pet should be tested for lepto."

Noting that leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease that can pass from animals to humans, Cornell Diagnostic Laboratory Director Donald Lein said the infection can be an occupational hazard for people who work with animals. "This used to be called 'milkers' disease,' and there is real potential for its spread among dairy farm workers, as well as people handling other animals." He said that personnel in large dairy farms, where hundreds of cows are milked several times a day, must work in pits at eye-nose-and-mouth level to a continuous stream of cows -- and to an aerosol form of their urine that could contain leptospire.

"Leptospirosis is a disease that's been around for a long time," McDonough said. "Now we're recognizing new types. Certainly in different areas of the country there are endemic types of lepto that aren't found in other areas, and each area might have its unique lepto problem."

Some facts about leptospirosis

from the Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine

What causes leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is caused by spirochete (or spiral-shaped) bacteria called leptospire. The leptospire live in fluids from infected animals, including urine, saliva, blood and milk.

What are the symptoms?

In general, the disease resembles the flu with fever, headache, chills and myalgia (muscle pain).

How is leptospirosis treated?

Dogs are treated with a course of antibiotics and with intravenous fluid to overcome dehydration. Diagnosis is based on clinical signs and laboratory tests.

Do humans catch leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a so-called zoonotic disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans. People can catch the disease from water that is contaminated by infected wild or domestic animals, as well as from more direct contact with animals, such as rodents, raccoons, skunks and cattle.

Why are cats not affected by leptospirosis?

Tests for antibodies show that some cats are exposed to the disease, but cats almost never show clinical signs of leptospirosis. Some experts believe that cats have developed a kind of immunity to leptospirosis from their longtime association with rodents.

SOS would like to add the following.....

SE Wisconsin is a hot spot. Please make sure your Dal is getting the vaccine that covers 4 varieties. They are phasing out the 2-way, but we are not sure if all vets have changed over. Immunity is short in this vaccine, so learn the symptoms and take your dog in if you suspect they are sick. This is the number one disease that people get from animals.



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