



PET PAGES

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Ad Number 36

Pet Pages – For the South West Florida Edition



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Leptospirosis

One of the fundamental practices of all medical professions, including veterinary medicine, is routine vaccinations. Vaccines including distemper, parvovirus, rabies and kennel cough are part of the core vaccines that we as veterinarians recommend to prevent diseases in our community. However there are many other diseases that our pets may come in contact with.

One disease in particular is becoming more prevalent not only in our area but in the entire state of Florida. Leptospirosis is a disease seen in many animals including dogs and is transmitted by many species of wildlife we see in Florida including deer, opossum, raccoon, squirrels and rodents. This is a disease that people can catch not only from wildlife but from an affected pet. It is passed from infected

animals through the urine and can live in the environment for months. It can seem similar to other diseases on the surface with clinical signs including vomiting, diarrhea and inappetence. However, if left untreated can lead to liver and kidney failure. Many patients we see need hospitalization, IV fluids, injectable medication and long term care. Unfortunately a small portion of these patients do not recover. I always tell clients that it is easier and more economical to prevent a disease that to treat. This is why we recommend vaccinating your dog for leptospirosis and include it in our wellness plans. On your next visit to the veterinarian please ask about leptospirosis and what you can do to protect your pet.

Provided by Animal Ark Of Arcadia, 863-494-2101

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