

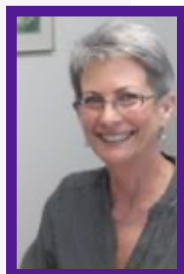
THE SCOTTIE GUARDIAN

Quarterly Newsletter of the Health Trust Fund of the STCA

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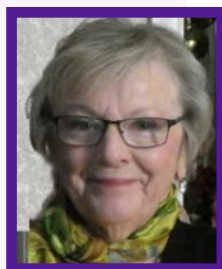
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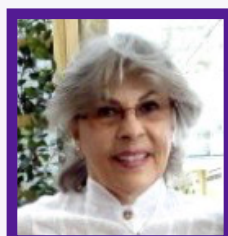
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Editor

Welcome to 2025 and a new Volume 7, Issue #1 of *The Scottie Guardian*, the quarterly e-Newsletter of the Health Trust Fund of the STCA. If you have the time, let us know how we are doing and what you would like to see

addressed in these pages. We would love to hear from you!

In this issue, you will be able to find everything you ever wanted to know about the disease Leptospirosis, a growing concern for our dogs and all animals as well as humans, no matter where you live. With the natural disasters recently in our country, there is even more reason to be concerned about exposure of your Scotties to this bacterial pathogen.

A reminder about the new requirements for the CHIC registry that are now in effect.

And, an announcement about new HTF Grants for Bladder Screens for 2025.

Thanks to the skills of Editor, Franny Sanden, and her trusty sidekick, Ragin, we are sure that you will continue to enjoy our little newsletter with a big mission: to deliver the latest and best health info for your Scotties!

Happy New Year to all and stay well!

Marcia Dawson, HTF Chairman / hijinkscot@gmail.com



Be sure to visit the STCA webpage at www.stca.biz for more details on Health and the Health Trust Fund pages, including links to the ScottiePhile Health library and HTF donation pages.

Leptospirosis in Animals

What to know

- Leptospirosis has a range of symptoms in animals, from mild disease to organ failure or death.
- Treatment usually helps animals get better, but organ damage caused by leptospirosis can be permanent.
- Some animals can be vaccinated to prevent infection.
- You can help prevent leptospirosis being passed from animals to people.

Overview - Leptospirosis is a disease that can affect people and animals, including your pets and farm animals, as well as wild animals like wild pigs and marine mammals. The bacteria that causes leptospirosis are spread through the urine (pee) of infected animals. The bacteria can contaminate water or soil, where it can survive for weeks to months.

Just like people, animals can become infected through contact with contaminated urine (pee) or body fluids of an infected animal or contact with contaminated water or soil. Leptospirosis signs and symptoms in animals can vary widely, and some animals don't show symptoms at all.

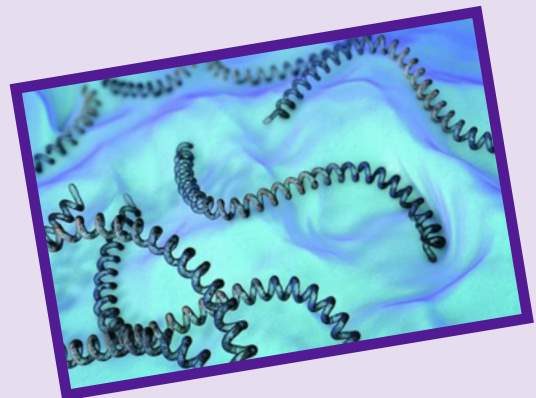
Leptospirosis in Dogs and Cats - Almost every dog is at risk of leptospirosis, whether they live in the country, suburbs, or city through:

- Direct contact with infected urine (pee) or contaminated water sources, especially drinking from slow-moving or stagnant water sources, like ponds, rivers, lakes, or streams
- Bite wounds or skin damage from other animals, including rodents or farm animals
- Eating infected body tissues or organs
- Being born to an infected mother

Dogs can be at higher risk if they roam where they may be exposed to infected wildlife or farm animals, or contaminated water sources. They are also at higher risk if they have contact with other dogs at dog parks or boarding or training facilities.

At first, dogs may have the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Depression
- Lethargy (not moving much)
- Loss of appetite
- Joint or muscle pain
- Eye and nasal discharge
- Changes in how much they pee
- Jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)



Within a few days, dogs infected with leptospirosis may start throwing up, be dehydrated, and have back pain from kidney failure.

Cats can become infected with leptospirosis, but compared to other animals, they are considered resistant because they rarely show symptoms. Infected cats may shed leptospirosis in their urine for years.

Vaccines to prevent leptospirosis in dogs and cats are available in the United States.

Treatment in Animals - If you think an animal may have leptospirosis, contact a veterinarian immediately. The veterinarian can perform tests to see whether or not the animal has the disease and start treatment as soon as possible.

If an animal is treated early with antibiotics, it may recover faster, and it can help prevent severe organ damage. They may also need other treatment methods, such as dialysis and fluids.

Prevention in Animals - To help prevent leptospirosis infection, keep rodent problems (rats, mice, or other animal pests) under control. Rodents can carry and spread the bacteria that cause leptospirosis.

In the United States, you can get dogs, cats, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses vaccinated against leptospirosis. The vaccine doesn't provide 100% protection because there are many strains of the bacteria that cause leptospirosis, and the vaccine doesn't provide immunity against all strains. Get animals vaccinated even if they get leptospirosis because the vaccine might cover different strains, and it may help avoid more severe disease.

In farm animals, preventing leptospirosis may include a combination of vaccination and livestock management practices:

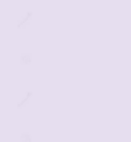
- Avoid co-grazing or mixing with other animal species, especially pigs
- Avoid introducing new animals into a herd without quarantine, health assessment, and vaccination
- Avoid bull- or boar-sharing for reproductive services

Your veterinarian can provide specific recommendations based on your location, number of animals, risk factors and control options.

Preventing Spread from Animals to People - Contact your veterinarian and a healthcare professional if you are concerned you had contact with an infected animal. If animals are not treated completely, they may have the bacteria that causes leptospirosis in their urine for up to three months and spread it to people and other animals.

Follow these guidelines:

- Don't come in contact with urine or blood from your infected animal before it has received proper treatment.
- If you must have contact with animal tissues or urine, cover any wounds you have with a waterproof dressing and wear protective clothing like gloves and boots. This is especially important if your job puts you at risk (veterinarians, farm workers, and sewer workers).
- Always wash your hands after handling your animals or anything that might have animal urine or feces (poop) on it.
- If you're cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated from an infected animal, use antibacterial cleaning solution or a solution of 1 part household bleach in 10 parts water.
- Make sure your infected animal takes all prescribed medicine and follow up with your veterinarian.



Preventing Leptospirosis after Hurricanes or Flooding

Key points

- During hurricanes or heavy rain, urine (pee) from infected animals can contaminate soil and water and make people sick.
- Cases of leptospirosis can increase after hurricanes or floods if people have direct contact with contaminated water.
- You can take steps to reduce your risk of leptospirosis after flooding events.

Overview - Leptospirosis is a disease caused by bacteria. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Sometimes, the infection worsens and causes kidney or liver damage, meningitis (inflammation around the brain and spinal cord), and trouble breathing. In rare cases, it can lead to death.

During hurricanes or heavy rain, urine (pee) from animals can contaminate soil and water sources like creeks and lakes. People can get leptospirosis by:

- Touching water and soil with urine or body fluids from infected animals
- Touching urine or body fluids from an infected animal
- Eating food or drinking water contaminated by urine

Cases of leptospirosis can increase after hurricanes or floods. Without access to running water, people may drink or bathe in contaminated water. They may also wade in flood waters with cuts in their skin.

What to look out for

Signs and symptoms -The time it takes to get sick after getting leptospirosis is between 2 and 30 days. Early symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Body or muscle aches
- Vomiting or nausea
- Yellowed skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Red eyes
- Stomach pain or diarrhea
- Rash



Leptospirosis may happen in two phases:

- In the first phase, you may have fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, vomiting, or diarrhea. You may feel better for a while but become ill again.
- Some people may suffer a more severe second phase, with kidney or liver failure, or inflammation around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).

The illness can last from a few days to more than 3 weeks. Without treatment, it may take several months to get better.

If you think you may have leptospirosis, see a healthcare provider right away so that they can run tests and start you on medicine to treat it.

Prevention tips

- After flooding, **make water safe to drink** by boiling it or using a chemical treatment like Aquatabs.
- **Cover cuts or scratches** with waterproof bandages or other coverings that seal out water.
- **Don't get into, bathe, or swallow** floodwater or any fresh water source that may have animal urine in it.
- **Wear waterproof protective clothing** and shoes near water or soil that may be contaminated with animal urine.
- **Keep rodents away** by putting food, water, and trash in closed containers, and trapping rodents.



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/about/index.html>





Now in Effect Changes in CHIC 2025



As of January 1, 2025 changes in the requirements for Scottish Terriers to qualify for the CHIC Registry have taken effect. The changes reflect the importance placed on available DNA tests by making the CMO required. Also, the HTF added other tests to the optional category to underscore the importance of these health issues in Scottish Terriers.

Required Tests:

- * vWD- DNA test from an approved lab and results registered with the OFA
- * CMO- DNA test from an approved lab and results registered with the OFA
- * Patellar Luxation- Veterinary evaluation and results registered with the OFA

Optional Tests, (choose one):

- * Autoimmune Thyroiditis Panel from an approved lab and results registered with the OFA
- * ACVO Eye Examination and results registered with the OFA
- * Serum Bile Acid Test from approved lab and results registered with the OFA
- * Kidney Screen (Urine Protein:Creatinine Ratio) and results registered with the OFA
- * Legg-Calve-Perthes, radiographs submitted to OFA for evaluation

Permanent identification in the form of a microchip or tattoo is required, as before.

Details on the procedures for these new tests are explained on the OFA website:
<https://ofa.org/diseases/>



WANTED

**NOTICE
NEW ROUND OF HTF GRANTS FOR 2025
NOW AVAILABLE!**

- * The HTF will provide \$500.00 for a Blood Draw Clinic for the Scottie DNA Bank (on hold until later in 2025).
- * The HTF will provide \$1,000.00 for a Bladder Screening Clinic.

**Regional Clubs and other Scottie Organizations
may apply
for one or both of these grants.**

**Contact the HTF Secretary Helen Prince to
receive application forms and information.**

Email: haprince@comcast.net

NOTE: The HTF also will honor requests submitted by the 12/31/25 deadline for clinics to be held in 2026.

A wooden signpost with a scroll containing text. The signpost is made of light brown wood with a gabled top and a vertical post. The scroll is white with a slight shadow, and the text is in a bold, dark purple font. The background is a light gray and white checkerboard pattern.

**Welcome!
to the Health Trust
Fund's new
librarian
Michele
Baggenstoss**



From Your Editor's Desk

Oh my, oh my, what a tragedy the LA area fires are. It bothered me that many dogs (ok, cats and other pets, too) may be drinking contaminated water. Remember, the firefighters are spraying down everything, with the water mixing with toxic chemicals. So, while I was laying on Mom's **Newsweek** magazine I spied an article about the toxic water and thought I'd share it with you:

"As Los Angeles reels from ongoing wildfires—which have killed at least 24 people and destroyed thousands of homes, schools and businesses—a new threat may emerge.

Wildfires and the firefighting activities undertaken to put them out can compromise water systems and contaminate drinking supplies with harmful chemicals.

This is the warning of environmental engineer professor Andrew Whelton of Purdue University, Indiana, whose work involves helping communities in the wake of devastating fires.

Already, several utilities across the Los Angeles area have declared some or all of their water potentially unsafe for drinking.

The first danger fires pose to water infrastructures comes from how they can drain the system—not only from the use for firefighting but also from how property damage can lead to unchecked leaks that further diminish reserves. Wildfires can also result in power losses that make it harder to restore water reserves at the rate needed.

"Combined, these factors can depressurize the water system, leaving no water available," Whelton wrote. "When water is depleted, the system is vulnerable to chemical contamination."

In addition, the fires can cause contamination directly—either by partially melting pipes, meters and other hardware, causing breaks that expose sealed infrastructure to the surroundings, and even by smoke particles getting into the system.

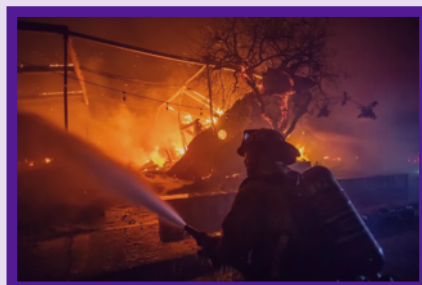
Chemicals known to get into water systems in the wake of fires may be cancer-causing, with long-term health ramifications. Others have a more rapid effect.

"Sometimes these chemicals—such as benzene—can cause someone to become immediately ill if they drink or use the water. Symptoms can include nausea, headaches and rashes." Whelton said.

Compounding the problem is how the chemicals can stick to the insides of pipes, etc., and even penetrate into plastic pipes and seals, from which they leach over long periods of time, making cleaning infrastructure a challenging and time-consuming process."

Remember, if you get a **DO NOT DRINK NOTICE** (A 'Do Not Drink Notice' means that you should not drink your tap water. You should also not attempt to treat the water by boiling, filtering or adding anything.) heed the warning and don't drink the water and don't let your pets drink it either.

Source: Newsweek
Published January
14, 2025



Until we meet again in three months, I remain your Health Trust Fund's source for all things Scottie health.
Ragin