

**LEPTOSPIROSIS**

* Leptospirosis is a disease caused by Leptospira bacteria. These bacteria can be found in the soil and water in all parts of the world.
* Areas with warmer climates and high rainfall are more susceptible.



* Exposure to leptospirosis is through a bite from on infected animal or coming into contact with infected urine, water, soil, and food.
* Symptoms of Lepto can be vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and loss of appetite. In serious cases, kidney failure and death can occur if not caught early.
* If caught early, leptospirosis can be treated with antibiotics.
* Leptospirosis can be prevented by giving a yearly vaccine. It is recommended that your dog gets vaccinated if he/she is near any bodies of water, wildlife, or parks/wooded areas.



**TICK-BORNE DISEASES**

Ehrlichiosis

* Ehrlichia is found in the Lone-Star and Brown Dog tick. Both of which are common in Mt. Pleasant, SC.
* A tick infected with ehrichia must be attached for more than 36 hours before transferring the disease.
* Symptoms include:
	+ Fever
	+ Weight loss
	+ Abdominal pain
	+ Stiff and swollen joints
	+ Anemia
* A positive blood test can diagnose ehrlichia.
* Several weeks of antibiotics will treat a dog positive for ehrlichiosis.
* A monthly dose of tick prevention can ensure you pet is protected.



LYME

* Lyme disease is transmitted from an infected deer tick.
* A tick must be attached for at least 18 hours before lyme can be contracted.
* Symptoms include:
	+ Fever
	+ Lameness
	+ Lethargy
	+ Loss of appetite
* Diagnosing lyme is by a simple blood test performed by your veterinarian.
* Treatment is with a round of antibiotics.
* Prevention of lyme is by giving one dose of monthly flea/tick preventative or vaccinating in endemic areas.
* Lyme disease is a concern in the north-eastern region of the United States.