

# Countryside Mews

Spring 2016 edition

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Emergency Preparations for Pets



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Good-bye winter rain, hello spring sun (we hope)!!

Spring not only brings warmer weather, it also brings out all of those pests we don't see as much in the cooler months like fleas, ticks and parasites. We carry a full range of both oral and topical products to protect your pets against these unwanted visitors so pop in and we would be happy to discuss your options for flea and parasite prevention.





**May 1-7 is emergency preparedness week.**

**Are you prepared for an emergency? Does that include a plan for your pets?**

In an emergency you will need a plan and some basic supplies (emergency kit). You may not have access to power, water or emergency personnel for 72 hours, so make sure you have enough supplies. Make sure everyone in your home is aware of the plan and knows where to find the kit.

Below are some ideas to help you get prepared or check out [GetPrepared.ca](http://GetPrepared.ca) or [www.cdart.org/beprepared.htm](http://www.cdart.org/beprepared.htm) for more resources and ideas!

**Emergency Kit List**

- Emergency documents – copy of emergency plan, out of town emergency contacts, family doctor's information, veterinarian's information, copies of vaccination records etc
- Water – at least 2L/day per person, 4L/day per average dog, 1L/day per average cat
- Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods
- Manual can opener, pet feeding bowls
- Newspaper, doggie poop bags, litter, and litter box
- Flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Extra keys (vehicle and home)
- Cash in smaller bills, and change for payphones
- A sturdy crate or carrier to house/ transport pets
- Leash and collar/ harness and id tags
- Blankets
- Special items such as prescription medication, infant formula, and equipment for people with disabilities

# Leptospirosis

## What is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is an infectious disease that causes serious illness in dogs, cats, wild animals and people all around the world. The disease is caused by spiral-shaped bacteria that live in water or warm, wet soil. Leptospirosis causes a variety of flu-like symptoms but it can develop into a more severe, life-threatening illness that affects the kidney, liver, brain, lungs and heart.

## How do dogs become infected with Leptospirosis?

The most common ways dogs become infected by leptospirosis is by coming in contact with the urine of infected animals-usually in water or on wet ground. Dogs become infected by swimming in or drinking contaminated water or by playing in areas where infected urine is present. Leptospire enter the body through the dog's eyes, ears, nose, and mouth, through a break in the skin caused by a cut or a scratch or if the skin has been softened by prolonged exposure to water. Once a dog has become infected, the leptospire reproduce, multiply and begin to spread to other parts of the body. If the infection reaches the kidneys or the bladder, the dog may become a carrier of leptospirosis, spreading the bacteria each time they urinate.

## What are the Symptoms of Leptospirosis

While some dogs may have no obvious symptoms, early signs of leptospirosis usually appear about a week after infection and may include fever, muscle weakness, and loss of energy or appetite. Other clinical signs include jaundice (yellow eyes or skin) and blood in the urine. Vomiting and diarrhea may follow after a few days causing dogs to become dehydrated and very thirsty. This is a warning sign that the infection has reached the kidneys and you should seek immediate care from a veterinarian.

Leptospirosis can be difficult to recognize by its clinical signs because the infection affects many different parts of the body and causes a variety of symptoms. However, your veterinarian can diagnose the infection by testing your dog's blood and urine. If treatment is started early enough most dogs recover within two weeks. Your veterinarian may then prescribe a course of oral antibiotics to ensure the infection is gone and to keep your dog from becoming a carrier of the disease. The best way to prevent or reduce the chances of your pets becoming infected with Leptospirosis is to have them vaccinated, as the amount of confirmed cases on Vancouver Island has been slowly growing.

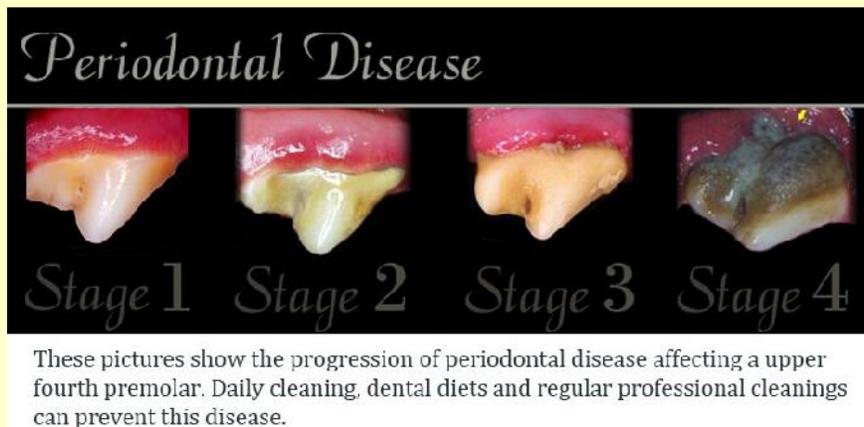
## Dental Health

It is estimated that 85 percent of all pets have periodontal disease by the time they are 3 years of age. Periodontal disease is a progressive disease of the supporting tissues surrounding teeth and is the main cause of early tooth loss. Periodontal disease starts when bacteria combine with food particles to form plaque on the teeth. Within days, minerals in the saliva bond with plaque to form tartar. The bacteria work their way under the gums and cause gingivitis-inflammation of the gums. Once under the gums, bacteria destroy the supporting tissue around the gums, leading to tooth loss. This condition is known as periodontitis. The bacteria associated with periodontal disease can also travel in the bloodstream to infect the heart, kidney and liver.

A professional veterinary dental cleaning is the only way to effectively remove tartar from the teeth and under the gum tissue and protect your pet's health. With a professional dental cleaning and a follow-up, gingivitis can be reversed. Periodontal disease, however, is not reversible but diligent at-home dental care and regular veterinary cleanings can slow down the progression of the condition.

The use of general anesthesia is extremely safe when properly administered by trained individuals. While in our care at Countryside, your pet will receive IV fluids during the dental procedure and our highly trained technician will monitor blood pressure and heart rate throughout the procedure as well. Anesthesia does carry some risks and although these risks are low, it is important that pre-anesthetic blood work be performed prior to any procedure requiring anesthesia.

Recently, anesthesia-free dentistry has become an option for our pets however this is essentially a cosmetic procedure and does not address gum problems or other oral diseases. Anesthesia-free dentistry (AFD) has gained popularity over the last few years mainly due to the fact that costs are lower and there tends to be a perceived risk associated with anesthesia. Yes, AFD does cost less and does not have any anesthetic risk but unfortunately it brings with it other risks and leaves many (if not most) pets to suffer from unrecognized dental issues and oral diseases. When your pet has a dental procedure without a general anesthesia there is a risk that calculus and debris from the teeth can cause aspiration as a tracheal tube is not in place. Hand scalers may hurt your pet gingival causing flinching and discomfort and may lead to a general fear of ongoing at-home hygiene care. Physical restraint to force a potentially painful procedure on your pet may induce a fear of oral manipulation in your pet, may cause physical injury to your pet or operator and may result in a substandard procedure.



## Rescues

Since the opening of our hospital almost four years ago we have worked closely with local animal rescue groups and we have contributed over \$100,000.00 towards medical care and treatments for abandoned and sick dogs and cats (and even a few birds). We believe in giving back to the community and we strongly support adopting through a rescue agency as there are so many animals province wide in need of vet care and a forever home.

Here is a little bit of information about the rescue groups we have worked with over the past four years, if you are considering opening up your heart and your home to a new pet, please give us a call and we would be happy to connect you with an agency that has animals in need of a new home and a new life.



### Angels Under Our Wings

Angel's Under Our Wings Cocker Spaniel Rescue is a small not-for profit group of volunteers located in Victoria, B.C. dedicated to rescuing cocker spaniels from high-kill facilities before they are scheduled to be euthanized or if they are not holding up well in a shelter environment. We work with an amazing team who are committed to finding these precious souls their forever homes.



### Broken Promises Rescue

Broken Promises Rescue is a volunteer-run, non-profit animal rescue organization in Victoria, B.C. dedicated to improving the lives of unwanted, neglected, and orphaned animals on Vancouver Island and when resources permit, in remote communities and elsewhere in B.C. We try to help the many pet in the shelter system that are considered less adoptable due to medical or behavioural problems or simply because of their colour, age or breed. At Broken Promises we believe that all animals deserve a life without pain, hunger or loneliness.



## **Bully Buddies**

Bully Buddies is a non-profit animal organization located in British Columbia, Canada. It is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who love bully breed dogs for the brilliant and loyal dogs they are! All of our funding comes from donations and fundraiser events. We strive to place Pit bulls with excellent temperaments who are breed ambassadors into responsible and loving homes.



## **Helping Homeless Cats**

Helping Homeless Cats is a volunteer-run organization dedicated to rescuing stray domestic and feral cats in the Greater Victoria area. When we have room and resources, we take the unadoptable cats such as seniors who are not good candidates for the Pound or SPCA. We network with other rescue groups when that benefits cats in need. We ensure the sterilization and medical treatment of all rescued cats upon intake. We are a small group and focus our resources on finding the best homes for rescued kitties.

**We are always happy to accept donations for the rescue organizations we work with to ensure they are able to continue to save hundreds of lives every year.**



**The Bumble was rescued through Broken Promises and came into the clinic so small and sick his prognosis was not good. With their funding for vet care and lots of love from the Countryside team, he slowly recovered and won the heart of our receptionist Danni. As you can see he has a pretty good life now!**

## Cat Boarding at Countryside Pet Hospital

Are you going out of town and worried about where to leave your best cat friend(s)?

Do you have a special cat buddy who requires daily medication or extensive care?



Here at Countryside, we have six spacious kennels set up in a quiet space at the back of our hospital. Your cat will be monitored daily by Dr. Braaten and our amazing technician Andrii and any medication or special dietary needs will be happily accommodated!

Please feel free to give us a call to discuss our boarding rates and availability at 250-477-0010.