



MAIN STREET

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Seasonal Newsletter

Summer 2017

"The Cat Days of Summer"

Main Street Animal Hospital 341 S. Main Street Doylestown, PA 18901

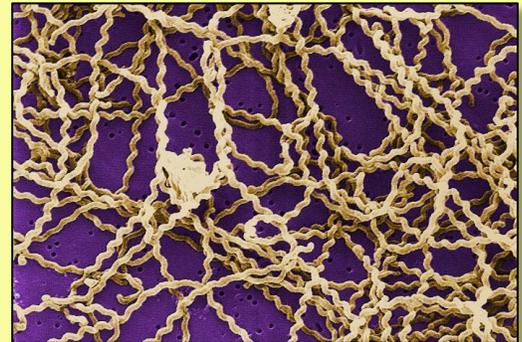
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Welcome to Main Street Animal Hospital's seasonal newsletter, your quarterly source for pet health news, updates from around the hospital, savings opportunities, and staff profiles.

Featured Article: Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is an infectious disease caused by a group of bacteria known as *Leptospira*. It is a worldwide zoonotic disease, which means it can be spread between both animals and people. Bacteria are passed through the urine of infected animals and can enter the body through a break in the skin or moist membranes like the eyes or mouth. The bacteria can survive in the environment for as long as months, inhabiting moist soil, lakes, streams, rivers, and stagnant water like puddles. Many wild animals, such as rats, mice, skunks, raccoons, and deer, can carry and spread leptospirosis.



Dogs are most commonly affected (cases in cats are rare), but signs vary and are often nonspecific. Some dogs may be asymptomatic or recover quickly after a mild illness, while for others an infection can become lethal. Symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, fever, increased thirst and/or urination, and abdominal pain. The disease can cause kidney or liver failure.

Treatment for leptospirosis consists of antibiotics and supportive care, but there is still a risk of permanent damage to the kidneys or liver. Fortunately, there is a vaccine for leptospirosis, which protects against the four most common strains of *Leptospira* bacteria. Ask your veterinarian if your dog would be a good candidate for the vaccine.

Summer Recommendations

- Tis the season for thunderstorms and fireworks. If your dog is fearful or anxious during these situations, talk to your veterinarian about treatment options. Main Street Animal Hospital offers the **Thundershirt**® (a comforting compressive vest) as well as **Sileo**® (a new oral gel for dogs with noise aversion).
- Warmer weather brings people and pets outside, along with fleas and ticks. Don't forget to keep your pets on **monthly flea and tick preventatives**. Main Street offers **Simparica**™ or **Nexgard**® (oral monthly medications) and topical products are available over the counter.

Staff Profile

Lois Rafalowski, Receptionist



Lois has been working with veterinary practices in a variety of positions for over twenty years. She holds a degree in Practical Nursing and previously worked in the pediatrics department of a local hospital and at a chiropractor's office.

Lois has always been drawn towards caring for animals. She shares her home with six beautiful golden retrievers and one rescued cat. Lois can't imagine not having their faithful companionship and unconditional loving support in her life.