# Leptospirosis has been a hot topic of conversation at the clinic courtesy of our rodent plague.

Of concern is the possibility of our pets developing disease and the possibility of transfer to owners.

Leptospirosis is a disease of many colours. There is much we still do not fully understand about its transmission.

It is a bacterial infection that is primarily transferred directly from an infected animal to a naive animal. The bacteria also have the ability to survive for a period of days in the environment primarily in water such as stagnant puddles.

Rats are what is called the adapted host which means they can be infected with Leptospirosis and not become sick and as such are renowned for spreading the disease in domestic settings. Mice are not known to be adapted hosts and so if they get Leptospirosis they will get sick and usually die.

Leptospirosis in dogs has several presentations. Dogs are typically noticeably unwell. They can have kidney and, or liver failure, or can develop a bleeding disorder which can appear with similar signs to incidental rat bait exposure!

Leptospirosis in dogs is a severe disease and many will not survive. Of additional

concern is the possible exposure of pet owners to the disease. Leptospirosis in humans is a very debilitating disease, with most people requiring hospitalisation and long treatment and recovery times.

To break this cycle and offer peace of mind to owners, there is a vaccination available for dogs and with the increasing reports of rat sightings we will be running a vaccination day to provide coverage to pets in our area. Vaccination requires 2 doses 1 month apart for full protection.

We have not diagnosed any cases in our clinic in association with this plague but are happy and keen to help owners get the best protection available in the face of increased exposure risk.

See our ad for further details.