



## HDOA ALERT

**For all of our residents who are dog owners: there has been a recent confirmed fatal case of Leptospirosis in the Hammock Dunes area. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that primarily affects the kidneys and liver of dogs. The disease is spread via the urine of infected animals. Wildlife such as mice, rats, squirrels, raccoons, opossum, fox and deer seem to be the most likely carriers. Although the disease is relatively rare, the University of Florida Veterinary College reports an increased number of recent cases. We urge all our residents with dogs that have exposure to areas where wildlife may have urinated to be on alert and to ask your veterinarian about vaccination. However, it should be known that there are many strains of this bacteria, and not all of them have vaccine coverage. Furthermore, the vaccine can cause severe allergic reactions in some dogs, so it is best to consult your veterinarian for his/her opinion of what is best for your dog. Also, since the vaccine is not 100% effective, dogs should be kept away from high risk areas and not allowed to drink from standing water which may have been contaminated. Further information can be found at the CDC at the following like...<http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/pets>.**

Thank you!

Hammock Dunes Owners' Association