



WEILS DISEASE

Info-Document

*LEPTOSPIROSIS
BACTERIA*

Should we be concerned..?

It is said that in the UK we are never further than 12 feet from a rat..! So where ever you fish, although you may not see them, its fair to say its likely they're there. As such the safest option is to assume that the water your fishing is infected with the disease.

How do we catch it..?

It can enter the body in various ways, the most obvious being the mouth but also includes the nose, eyes, alimentary tract as well as cuts and abrasions, however small they are..!

Contrary to popular belief, we can contract this disease from various sources including most wild animals, as well as domesticated animals such as Cows.. So the next time you walk through a field of cows to get to that 'nice little spot' on a river, bear in mind that the moisture your shoes have picked up may not be just early morning dew... Bear this in mind when re-tying your shoe laces and then mopping the sweat from your brow..?

How do we know if we've caught the disease..?

The problem is that the symptoms of Weils Disease can easily be mistaken for a bad cold or the Flu..! And did you know that one in ten people who contract Weils Disease will die..?

Men are renowned for avoiding the Doctors surgery but if you're an angler, if your ill, if your suffering any of the symptoms listed on this information sheet, do not make the mistake of ignoring this advice... It could well be your last mistake...!

How do we avoid it..?

Try to maintain a good level of hygiene whilst bankside, ensure food is covered and away from where animals can access it. Purchase and use a hand cleaner that kills the disease (*available from good tackle shops*) rats are incontinent, so will urinate on anything they touch, including you, your food, your fishing equipment, as well as the ground you place your equipment on..! Consider things like bedding knots down with saliva..? Where has the line been..? Visualise a session on the bank and consider if any of the things you do could be changed to protect you from this disease..? Make other anglers aware of the disease, show them this information sheet, tell them where they can download a copy for themselves.

When having a social, as well as discussing wine, women and song, discuss Weils Disease. Remember, Weils Disease can kill you..!



What is commonly hailed as the carrier of Weils disease...

The Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Rats release in their urine an organism called *Leptospira Ictero-Haemorrhagiae*, over half of all rats are carriers.

However slight the chance, if you feel there is a risk of contraction you must seek medical help.

There is no medication available over the counter to treat this disease: Only via medical supervision.

If whilst unwell you experience bruising, jaundice, nasal bleeding, consult your physician and bring to their attention your concerns regarding WEILS DISEASE.

SOME OF THE SYMPTOMS ARE:

Severe pain in the extremities as well as the body.

Headache.

Fever.

Shivers.

Insomnia.

Constipation.

High pulse rate.

Lowered Appetite.

High blood pressure.

Cough.

Breathlessness.

Please note that this list in NOT exhaustive and the severity of symptoms will vary from person to person.

If at any time you feel there is the possibility that you may have contracted the disease you are urged with due haste to seek medical attention immediately

**REMEMBER:
WEILS DISEASE
HAS A FATALITY RATE
OF
1 IN 10**

PLEASE CUT OUT THE SLIP BELOW AND KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE UPON YOUR PERSON.

NOTICE TO MEDICAL PROFESSION

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF I ATTEND SUFFERING FROM FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS, I AM AN ANGLER AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH WATER THAT IS INFECTED WITH WEILS DISEASE (LEPTOSPIROSIS BACTERIA) PLEASE TREAT ACCORDINGLY.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN CORRELATED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING ANGLERS AWARE OF THIS DISEASE. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS LEAFLET IS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO REPLACE THE ADVICE AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN BY A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, Thankyou.

Compiled by: James Pullen

Hosted by: www.master-baits.co.uk