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Talk No. 34		(WEILS DISEASE)
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Start time		End		Duration	
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1. Introduction:

1.1 The presence of rats should be discouraged so far as is practicable, but to some extent unavoidable, and carries with it the risk of Weil's disease. The rats are no longer present, but the organism is carried in rats' urine. They were, prior to work.

2. Main Points:

2.1 Discourage the presence of waste food etc properly.
 2.2 Do not handle the carcasses found on site.
 2.3 Always wash your hands with hot water and soap. If clothing is contaminated, bag it.

3. Points to remember

3.1 The leptospirosis organism enters humans by entering broken skin, or through the eye, ear, nose, throat, anal and vaginal areas. Cover these areas with waterproof dressings where there is any risk. Get yourself whilst at work, get it treated by a doctor/nurse.
 3.2 Consider the use of protective clothing (i.e. coveralls).
 3.3 Leptospirosis starts as a flu-like illness and can be fatal. It becomes serious if left untreated.
 3.4 Unfortunately the symptoms are very similar to flu. If you have been exposed to the risk, advise your doctor — a simple blood test can quickly confirm the diagnosis.
 3.5 The greatest risk is from contaminated water who should consider carrying a card or tag warning of the risk.
 3.6 Remember that if you are exposed via water getting into your eyes, you run the risk of contamination etc. If in doubt get it checked.

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