Canine brucellosis is a reproductive disease of dogs caused by the intracellular bacterium *Brucella canis* (*B. canis*). It is in the family that causes brucellosis in other species, such as *B. abortus* in cattle, *B. suis* in swine, and *B. melitensis* in sheep and goats.

*Brucella canis* infection can result in significant economic loss to breeders through decreased production of puppies and loss of breeding stock.

*B. canis* is a zoonotic disease and can be transmitted from dogs to humans.

**SYMPTOMS OF B. CANIS**

Symptoms in dogs may include infertility, abortion, stillbirth, decreased litter size, decreased puppy survivability, swollen lymph glands, eye disease, infection or arthritis of the spine, abnormalities of the sperm or male reproductive organs, and weight loss.

Infected females may raise an apparently normal litter. Puppies may become infected in utero and remain asymptomatic until years later.

Symptoms in people may include fever, night sweats, headaches, back pain, arthritis, fatigue, and weight loss.

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CONTROL BRUCELLOSIS

Canine brucellosis is a reportable disease. All cases should be reported to the state veterinarian at (573) 751-3377.

TRANSMISSION

Transmission between dogs commonly occurs during breeding or by contact with aborted material, birthing fluids, vaginal discharge, semen, or urine. It also can occur through exposure to blood, milk, saliva, or feces of an infected dog.

Transmission of *B. canis* from dogs to people most often occurs through exposure to aborted material, birthing fluids, and vaginal discharge.

IF YOU SUSPECT INFECTION

Once a positive diagnosis is made, separate and quarantine infected dogs. Infected dogs should be removed from the kennel immediately. Continue to test all exposed animals every 30-45 days until all dogs are negative on two consecutive whole group tests.

BIOSECURITY

*B. canis* is relatively short lived outside the body and is readily inactivated by sunlight and most common disinfectants. However, *B. canis* is stable in the environment in the presence of organic matter for up to two months.

Proper cleaning and disinfection of the kennel is imperative. Ensure removal of all organic matter during the cleaning process and follow the label directions of the disinfectant to ensure proper dilution, storage, contact time, and rinsing.

Following strict biosecurity protocols can aid in reducing the risk of spreading *B. canis*.

PREVENTION

Purchase new breeding stock from kennels proven to be free of canine brucellosis. If purchasing breeding stock with an unknown *B. canis* status, it is recommended to quarantine and test new animals twice, once at time of purchase and again 30-45 days later.

Do not house new animals with unknown *B. canis* status with known negative animals or allow them to breed until testing is completed.

Maintain biosecurity protocols aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of any disease at all times.

QUESTIONS AND TESTING

Contact your kennel veterinarian for more details or to schedule *Brucella canis* testing.

For a limited time, breeders will be reimbursed $20 per *Brucella canis* test for each eligible dog. All canines 6 months of age or older are eligible for testing. The MDA reimbursement program is only available at the Springfield or Jefferson City MDA Animal Health Laboratories.

If you’re interested or have questions, contact the Animal Care Program at (573) 751-3076.