

Canine Brucellosis FAQ's

What is canine brucellosis?

Canine brucellosis is a highly contagious, infectious disease of dogs. Infection is caused by a bacteria which is spread by contact with positive dogs.

What are the signs of canine brucellosis in infected dogs?

In female dogs, abortion late in pregnancy (6 weeks to 8 weeks) and infertility are the most common signs. After abortion, females may have prolonged vaginal discharge.

In males, signs can include tender, swollen or shrunken testicles and infertility. Sterility may be the first sign of the disease in a kennel. Some dogs are infected but clinical signs may be vague or inapparent.

What should I do if I suspect canine brucellosis is in my kennel?

Quarantine the suspected dogs and stop movement of all animals into and out of the kennel. Next, contact a veterinarian so that proper testing can be conducted. Positive laboratory results are reportable to BOAH.

How is canine brucellosis transmitted to other dogs?

The infection is passed through secretions from the reproductive tract, such as aborted puppies, urine or vaginal secretions from infected dogs.

How is canine brucellosis transmitted to humans?

Infections are spread from dogs in the same manner as transmission between dogs. Humans can acquire the bacteria when secretions come in contact with broken skin or are accidentally ingested.

What are the methods of treatment for canine brucellosis in dogs?

Females can be spayed to stop spread of the disease. Males may receive an antibiotic treatment, but the bacteria tend to be carried after the treatment ends. Due to great monetary loss related to quarantines in kennels, most positive dogs are euthanized.

How do I clean my kennel after canine brucellosis?

Kennels and all equipment used in the operation must be disinfected. Disinfectants with bleach, at least 70 percent ethanol, iodine/alcohol solutions, glutaraldehyde or formaldehyde will effectively kill the bacteria.

How is canine brucellosis prevented?

Breeding dogs should be purchased from known brucellosis-free kennels. All newly purchased dogs should be isolated and tested twice at least 4 weeks to 6 weeks apart before they are incorporated into the breeding stock. All breeding dogs should be tested yearly at the same time.

Care should be taken to maintain a dry and clean kennel and equipment.



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