A black dog silhouette with text

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**Policy & Procedure for Canine Brucellosis – Risk Assessment**

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| Canine brucellosis is a very unpleasant infection for dogs.  It is painful, whilst also presenting a life-long health risk to both humans and other dogs that come into contact with the infected dog.  Infection causes reproductive disorders and chronic illness in dogs, with chronic cases often suffering from spinal problems. There is no vaccine currently available, treatment is long, expensive, not always successful and with side effects for the health of the animal.  Brucella canis is the principal cause of brucellosis in dogs. It is not usually present in UK born dogs but may occur in dogs imported from other countries.  The risk of both another dog and to humans for contracting brucellosis from an infected dog is low for most types of contact. (Through faeces, urine, saliva.)    Direct contact with reproductive fluids and other materials arising from birth or abortion is associated with a higher risk.  ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…  At dog registration I will ask if the dog has been born abroad. If the answer is YES, I will ask to see the dog’s passport and any proof of inoculations that they would have had before they entered the country and after they entered the country. I will keep a record of these documents on the individual dog’s file. I will also ask if it has been tested for brucellosis and ask what the result was.  Clients advised to check their documentation to see if their dog was tested prior to entering the UK.  If no documentation found to support a negative test, they will be advised to contact their veterinary practice for a blood test and proof of a negative test to be sent through to me for my records.  If the dog has tested positive, then I will inform the owner that I cannot board their dog due to the risks, regardless of whether the dog shows any symptoms.  If the owner has not tested the dog for this disease, then I will not board the dog to mitigate any risk to humans or dogs, it may come into contact with on a walk or outside. It will be the owner’s sole responsibility to have their dogs tested.  Should I already be caring for a dog who was born abroad. I will go through the health section of our Dog Registration, asking if the dog was tested etc.  In the case that the dog has tested positive I will:  1. Inform other owners whose dog may have come in contact with the infected dog and suggest that they get their dog tested (blood test) and I will record information.  2. Contact Public Health England Health Protection Team (PHEHPT) and my veterinary practice, and record information and advice given.  3. Reference the owners to the government website ([Brucella canis: information for the public and dog owners - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brucella-canis-information-for-the-public-and-dog-owners/brucella-canis-information-for-the-public-and-dog-owners) with information about the infection.  4. Safeguard future business and clients, by ensuring that all test results per dog are recorded for my records, regardless of whether the results are positive or negative.  5. Inform the client that failure to test their dog or a positive result would mean I would not be able to board their dog in the future.  6. Documenting results in the dogs record.  7. Future clients whose dog has been purchased/rescued from abroad would have to show a negative blood test for the disease before registration could commence. |
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British Veterinary Association (BVA) calls for extra vigilance and stricter pet import measures ...https://www.bva.co.uk › news-and-blog › news-article.

<https://vets.blog.gov.uk/2022/07/06/world-zoonoses-day-how-you-can-help-protect-our-dogs-from-brucella-canis/>

Please see [DOG REGISTRATION](https://forms.monday.com/forms/6cbb26460c63ba0f1c88cacb6972c31e?r=use1) or our website https://allyourpetcare.com/policies for details of questions pertaining to the above Policy