



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DOGS RESCUED OR REHOMED FROM ABROAD.

Brucella Canis

Was your dog born or rescued from anywhere other than the UK?

Has your dog been mated with a dog which was bred or rescued from anywhere other than the UK?

If YES, there is a possibility that it is carrying *Brucella canis*, even if they do not show clinical signs or ill health. These animals pose a health risk to you, your direct family and our veterinary team.

There has been a significant increase in the number of cases of Brucellosis seen in dogs imported into the UK over the last three years, and the risks associated with the disease have been highlighted in a recent sad case where a lady fostered an imported rescue dog which, unbeknown to her, was infected with Brucella. It subsequently transmitted the disease to her and three of her four pet dogs. The lady was hospitalised for two weeks due to her illness and the imported dog together with all four of her dogs were euthanised.

Practice Policy

In order to protect our staff, you and your family, as practice policy we now require you to complete a declaration for, available from our reception team, if your dog is imported or has been mated with a dog bred outside the UK since January 2020. This policy stipulates that before we undertake any non-emergency surgical procedures, your dog will have a negative Brucellosis SAT test result; this test must be undertaken and certified by a UK approved lab, and be dated at a minimum of 3 months after the last date the dog could have been in contact with an infected dog and/or from date of entry into UK. This applies to both new and previously registered dogs. The cost of the test is £146.50 and results take about 2 weeks.

Canine Brucellosis - How can it affect you and your dog.

Canine brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Brucella canis*. The disease can be transmitted from dogs to humans causing serious illness. Canine brucellosis is rare in the UK, but there is growing concern around the disease with the increase in imported dogs from endemic areas such as Romania. Unfortunately there is also an increase in the number of imported dog which have tested positive. These dogs often appear clinically well showing no signs of ill health.

Brucellosis is mainly a disease of the reproductive systems in both male and female dogs. Infection may be asymptomatic or can cause a range of symptoms from abortion or swollen testicles to non-specific symptoms such as lameness or lethargy. Dogs with no clinical signs can still be infectious and spread the disease.

Brucella canis is commonly spread via mating, contact with contaminated birth product, directly from dam to pup, vaginal and seminal discharges, urine and blood.

As a dog with brucellosis poses a significant risk to human and animal health and the disease is very difficult to cure, euthanasia is often advised even if the dog is not demonstrating clinical signs. This is due to the need to keep the dog entirely separate from all other animals, with a consequent loss of quality of life for the dog. Being a notifiable disease all positive cases are reported to the government animal and plant health agency.

For further information please view the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) government and the British Veterinary Association (BVA) websites.