



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

Brucella canis Protocol

Background:

Under Appendix A, ch. ATCP 10, Wis. Admin. Code, all species of brucellosis, including *B. canis*, are listed along with several other diseases that must be reported to the department within one day of either being diagnosed or having credible diagnostic evidence of the disease.

This disease is zoonotic and exists in an unknown number of breeding kennels throughout the state. Infection usually results in decreased fertility and abortions in dogs.

Treatment is not recommended for dogs in breeding kennels or for dogs that cannot be isolated during treatment, as they may continue to be a source of infection for other dogs and humans. Treatment is expensive, requires several weeks of antibiotic therapy, and is not 100 percent effective. Relapse is common, even after continual use of antibiotics.

Spaying/neutering of the dog can reduce transmission risk, but this method has not been proven to decrease risk of infection to other dogs and humans and it does not remove the *B. canis* organism from the body. The only proven method for eradication in kennels is to test all dogs and eliminate the confirmed positives. Follow-up testing of the remaining dogs is also necessary to confirm that *B. canis* has been eliminated.

Protocol:

When a positive *B. canis* test result is reported to the department, the department shall do all of the following:

1. Issue a quarantine order for all dogs that are commingled with dog(s) that tested positive on either a screening or confirmatory test.
2. Verify that any of the exposed dogs have not received any antibiotic treatment within 3 months of testing unless approved by the department. Antibiotic therapy can cause false negative results.
3. Require confirmatory testing on the dog(s) that tested positive on a screening test.
 - a. If the confirmatory test is negative, the quarantine shall be released.
 - b. If the confirmatory test is positive, a *B. canis* control plan will be developed with the kennel owner and kennel veterinarian, the quarantine shall be amended and the plan will, at a minimum, indicate the following:
 - All dogs, including puppies, in the facility must be identified.

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- Recommend that all confirmed positive dogs are euthanized.
- All dogs 6 weeks of age or older must be tested for *B. canis* using a department approved test no sooner than 30 days and no later than 45 days following euthanasia of the infected dogs.
- All serum samples that are screening test positive will undergo further testing for confirmation.
- At least two negative *B. canis* tests at 30 to 45 day intervals are required for all dogs over 6 weeks of age.
- All puppies born to infected dams or sires, or puppies less than 6 weeks of age at the time of initial screening must either be euthanized or have at least 3 negative blood cultures for *B. canis*. Blood samples for culture must be collected at least 24 hours and no more than 72 hours apart. Puppies with a positive blood culture should be euthanized.

The department may release a quarantine when either of the following occurs:

1. All the confirmed positive dogs and puppies are euthanized and the remaining dogs and puppies have had two negative confirmatory tests, at 30 to 45 day intervals as described above.
2. All the confirmed positive dogs and puppies are spayed or neutered, treated under a protocol approved by the department, and be culture negative 30 days post treatment. Confirmed positive dogs may not be removed from the facility until neutering, treatment and testing has been completed, and the department approves removal. The recipients of the dogs or puppies must be informed about the *B. canis* disease and the dog's treatment for and status with the disease. Once the positive dogs are removed, all remaining dogs and puppies must have had two negative confirmatory tests, at 30 to 45 day intervals as described above.

Approved by:


 Yvonne Bellay, DVM
 Program Manager, Dog Sellers and Dog Facility Operators

Date: 11/6/12


 Paul J. McGraw, DVM
 Director, Bureau of Animal Disease Control

Date: 11/6/12