The Brucella canis

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WHAT IS BRUCELLA CANIS?

A **bacterial infection** affecting dogs, *which can be passed to people.*

UK cases are *increasing* because more dogs are being **imported** from overseas.

Healthy-looking dogs *can still carry* Brucella canis, which is why testing is based on **travel history**, *not just symptoms*.

Human infection is *uncommon*, but some people may be more at risk.

WHICH DOGS ARE AT RISK?

- **Imported** from abroad
- **Lived in** / **travelled to** 'high risk' countries
- Had contact with **imported** dogs *or their bodily fluids*

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

Many infected dogs can appear *completely healthy.*

Signs in dogs include:

- Breeding problems
- Lameness or back pain
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Eye inflammation

Signs in people include:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Fever, tiredness, muscle + joint pain

NOT ALL TESTS ARE EQUAL

Many dogs had *screening* tests before entering the UK, but these do not identify *all stages* of infection.

APHA recommendation: Specific blood tests (iELISA and SAT) are *most accurate*.

DOES MY DOG NEED TESTING?

Dogs with a travel/import history may need APHA iELISA and SAT testing, *particularly before routine referral.*

Why?

✓ Antibodies can take *12 weeks* to develop after infection

✓ Helps protect veterinary teams and other patients

✓ Prevents delays and allows safe referral planning

Emergency cases can still be assessed! The referral team will advise on the safest approach.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Avoid delays: Tell your vet if your dog has:

- Been imported
- Travelled abroad
- Lived overseas
- Had contact with imported dogs

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Guide for pet owners