

Breeder Tips from United All Breed Registry



Cute, huh?

Not if that dog hasn't had a brucellosis test!



Brucellosis: End it Now

Brucellosis is epidemic. It is highly contagious. There is no treatment. Infected animals must be destroyed. The disease is transmittable to humans and causes excruciating, debilitating pain. The information in this email is critical to your health, your children's health, your animals' health and possibly your entire livelihood.

If you missed the talks given in March and April of this year by Dr. Rick Kesler, DVM at annual seminars of the various state breeder organizations, this article will bring you up to speed.

The current epidemic started in Iowa when the government shut down contaminated kennels for 60 days. Rather than liquidate, the owners went underground, selling their animals at auction. They masked the diagnosis with antibiotics. The infected animals sold mainly to kennels in Kansas and Colorado.

Dr. Kessler reported he saw 390 cases in 2010, 598 cases in 2011, and as of March 8, he had already seen 1200 cases in 2013. In Minnesota this year, 247 dogs had to be destroyed in just 3 kennels.

Transmission. Brucellosis is spread by breeding and bodily fluids/secretions (like AIDS) but needs a host (a cell) to multiply because it lives IN the cell. It is in blood, semen, urine, tears, vaginal secretions, saliva, feces and afterbirth. 1cc of infected medium can infect 500 dogs. What does all of this mean? WEAR GLOVES when handling your dogs, especially at whelping time. Your equipment and your kennels can be easily disinfected to kill this bacteria on surfaces, but once it is inside a host, it cannot be killed because it lives inside the cells, not in your bloodstream. Another factor in the rapid spread of brucellosis is that many animals (and humans) can carry it without symptoms.

Possible Symptoms in Dogs

- Intervertebral Disk Disease
- Eye Inflammation
- Swollen Lymph Nodes
- Skin Disease
- Brain Abscess
- Red Testicles from dog licking from pain
- Prolonged Discharge in female
- Sterility is a RED FLAG
- Sperm abnormalities (by professional testing)
- Swollen testicles
- Unwilling to breed
- Abortions



Order the correct tubes for the PCR test by calling

1-888-237-2762



Test Test Test

We cannot afford not to.

Small litters from embryo loss/reabsorption
Dead puppies with dark, rotting flesh

What we must do

- TEST, TEST, TEST at a reliable lab.
- Close your kennel to stud services unless tested by a reliable lab
- Do not buy puppies to breed from untested parents
- Ask to see the test results and only accept results if the dog's microchip # is on the report
- Test your dogs every year and before EVERY mating

Recommended Test

Dr. Kesler only recommends the PCR test at Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (www.ksvdl.org). It is a DNA blood test that will not produce false positives. It can produce a false negative, especially if your dog has had any antibiotics within 40 days before the test. Typically the test is repeated 5-8 weeks later if the result was negative the first time, to account for incubation time after an initial exposure

Cost for PCR test: 1-10 samples, \$28.50 each: >10 samples, \$23.50 each. Contact Dr. Jianfa Bai at 785-532-4332 or jbai@vet.ksu.edu The tubes required for the PCR test sample can be purchased from BD (Becton-Dickinson) The item number is 363083, plastic citrate tube, 2.7ml. Call 1.888.237.2762 for ordering info.

Do not hesitate

Dr. Kesler commented: The enemies of our industry have always hated us without reason. If we don't contain this brucellosis outbreak, we are giving them that reason... and it could bring about the end of our industry.

Special thanks to Karen DeAngelo, [Glory Ridge Shih-Tzu](#), Warsaw MO for sharing her excellent notes on this talk!

Find out more:

[Brucellosis in humans](#)

[Treatise on all aspects of Brucellosis by World Health Organization](#)