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Keeping Brucellosis Out of Your Dog Population

Establishing an Isolation and Testing Program for Newly Acquired Dogs:

- Ideally, isolation facilities would be in a separate building with no other dogs housed in that building. However, a separate room with **NO POSSIBILITY OF CONTACT** with other animals either directly (i.e. nose-to-nose) or indirectly (contact with animal's urine, feces, water dishes, shared spaces, etc. is acceptable);
- Organic materials (feces, urine, discarded feed, birth/abortion products, etc.) removed from the isolation facility must be disposed of in a manner that prevents contact with any other animals;
- No animals running loose outside of cages/runs/enclosures, direct (see above) or indirect (see above) contact could occur;
- Dogs should move through isolation and testing in batches, with no dogs leaving until all dogs have tested negative for Brucellosis. Test all incoming dogs upon arrival. Isolate all dogs for a minimum of 60 days. Re-test all isolated dogs at 30 days after arrival and again 60 days after arrival;
- In the event that a Brucellosis test-positive animal is found, quarantine of the entire facility may be avoided if the positive animal has resided only in isolation since arrival, and no other dogs have been removed from isolation since the arrival of the test positive dog;
- If possible, have someone specifically assigned to the isolation area and only the isolation area. If not possible, staff should care for dogs not in isolation first and dogs in isolation last;
- The isolation facility should have designated boots and coveralls that are put on upon entering, and removed upon leaving the isolation area. Alternatively, boots can be thoroughly washed and disinfected upon entering and leaving. Hands must be washed upon entering and leaving or disposable gloves should be used. It is recommended that care duties in the isolation facility be completed at the conclusion of each day;
- Equipment must not be carried back and forth between facilities. If this must occur, equipment must be adequately cleaned and disinfected upon entering and leaving this isolation area;
- The isolation unit should be thoroughly cleaned daily. Upon the discovery of a Brucellosis test-positive dog, the isolation facility, and particularly the dog's pen, should be carefully cleaned and disinfected following the euthanasia and removal of the affected dog; If euthanasia is not elected, a lifetime quarantine will remain in effect;
- It is recommended that breeding and whelping be avoided in the isolation facility;

In the event that a dog belonging to you tests positive for canine brucellosis, an investigation will be conducted, and the entire facility would be quarantined pending completion of the investigation. If it can be determined that the animal has been maintained in isolation away from the rest of the facility, **AND** adequate biosecurity practices, as described above, were observed, then the quarantine may be limited to the isolation facility, and the rest of the facility would remain unaffected.

Disinfection to Prevent the Spread of Brucellosis

Brucella is a relatively hardy bacteria, does not form spores, and is killed by most common disinfectants. It can survive freezing and thawing and can survive for several weeks in milk, water, urine, or damp soil. It will die relatively quickly in dry conditions and is killed by sunlight. Contaminated objects are easily sterilized or disinfected by common methods and most disinfectants. When disinfecting, a disinfectant labeled to kill Canine Brucellosis (*Brucella canis*) must be used. It is essential when disinfecting to remove all organic material (feces, feed, and bedding, etc.) and apply the disinfectant to a thoroughly cleaned surface. Contact time with the disinfectant is also important. Exactly follow the product label for dilution and contact time instructions. A biodegradable enzyme based degreaser can be used prior to disinfection to remove any biofilm or organic debris that builds up and can hide the bacteria. Rinse well after using the degreaser. Follow degreasing with cleaning and disinfection.

For more information review the USDA document: **Best Practices for *Brucella canis* Prevention and Control in Dog Breeding Facilities** https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/brucella_canis_prevention.pdf