



Human health questions about Canine Brucellosis

originating from a commercial dog breeding facility in Marion County

Is Canine Brucellosis new?

No. Canine Brucellosis was first identified in dogs in 1966. Canine Brucellosis is reported every year in dogs in Iowa and across the U.S.

How do I know if my dog has Canine Brucellosis?

If you recently purchased a dog from the implicated Marion County commercial breeding facility, animal health officials will be contacting you with instructions. If you have not yet heard from animal health officials, contact your veterinarian with questions.

Can people get sick from Canine Brucellosis?

Yes, but it is very rare. Less than 100 cases of human infection have been reported since Canine Brucellosis was first identified in 1966. However, there is not a good test for human infection and symptoms are similar to a lot of other illnesses, so there are likely unrecognized human infections.

How do people get Canine Brucellosis and who is at highest risk for infection?

People likely get infected when they have contact with vaginal discharge, semen and birthing fluids from infected dogs. People in contact with these types of fluids (like breeders and veterinarians) are at highest risk for being infected.

Rarely, brucellosis can be spread from family pets to people through contact with urine, saliva, and other bodily fluids from an infected dog. People who have contact with infected dogs and who are immune compromised are at higher risk for being infected.

If I have been around dogs with Canine Brucellosis what should I do?

If you have had contact with vaginal discharge, semen or birthing fluids from a dog infected with Canine Brucellosis, contact your healthcare provider. They may choose to give you antibiotics to decrease your risk of infection.

If you have been in contact with a Canine Brucellosis infected dog and you are immune compromised, contact your healthcare provider.

If you have not had contact with those materials, you should watch for signs of becoming sick. If you become sick, contact your healthcare provider and let them know about your exposure to a dog with Canine Brucellosis.

Infection in people normally causes a fever, headache, swollen lymph glands, night sweats, joint and muscle aches, fatigue, weight loss, and swollen liver and/or spleen. Other, more serious complications have been reported primarily in immune-compromised people.

If I do get sick, can I be treated with medicine?

Brucellosis is treatable in people. Treatment involves taking antibiotics daily for several months and regular monitoring.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at 800-362-2736.