

Important Information for Borden Lane Vets' Clients

Dogs Rescued or Rehomed from Abroad: *Brucella canis*

At **Borden Lane Vets**, the safety and wellbeing of your pets, your family, and our veterinary team are our top priority.

If your dog was born or rescued from outside the UK or has been mated with a dog bred or rescued from abroad, there is a possibility it could carry ***Brucella canis***, even if it appears healthy. This disease poses a significant health risk to humans, pets, and veterinary staff.

Why Are We Concerned About *Brucella canis*?

Over the past three years, there has been a marked increase in cases of Brucellosis in dogs imported into the UK. Tragically, there have been instances where this disease has been transmitted to owners and other dogs, leading to severe illness and the euthanasia of affected pets.

Our Practice Policy

To protect everyone involved, **Borden Lane Vets** has implemented the following policy:

- If your dog was imported or has been mated with a dog bred outside the UK since January 2020, we require you to inform us so your pet's record can be flagged.
- Before any non-emergency surgical procedures are carried out, your dog must have a **negative Brucellosis SAT/ELISA test result**.
- The test must be performed by a UK-approved laboratory, with certification dated at least three months after the dog's last contact with a potentially infected dog or their entry into the UK.
- The cost of this test is £85 (at time of print), and results typically take around two weeks.
- **A negative test provided pre-arrival into the UK cannot be deemed appropriate and the above policy MUST be followed.**

This policy applies to both new and existing patients.

What You Need to Know About Canine Brucellosis

Brucella canis is an infectious bacterial disease that primarily affects the reproductive system in dogs but can also pose a risk to humans.

While rare in the UK, the rise in imported dogs from areas like Romania has led to increased cases, even one in Maidstone, Kent. Infected dogs often appear healthy but can still transmit the disease through:

- Mating
- Contact with birth products
- Vaginal or seminal discharges
- Urine or blood

Symptoms in dogs may include:

- Lethargy or lameness
- Abortion or swollen testicles
- General signs of ill health

Sadly, because *Brucella canis* is highly infectious, difficult to treat, and poses a severe risk, euthanasia is often recommended for infected dogs, even if they do not display symptoms.

Protecting Our Community

At **Borden Lane Vets**, we understand the joy and responsibility that comes with rescuing or rehoming a dog, especially from challenging circumstances. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved, from your family and pets to our veterinary team and community.

For further information, we recommend visiting the [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\)](#) and the [British Veterinary Association \(BVA\)](#) websites.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to speak to our team at reception. We're here to help.