



# Canine Brucellosis & Your Health

Canine Brucellosis is caused by the bacteria, *Brucella canis*, and is only known to make dogs and humans sick. Disease is rarely reported in humans. The most commonly reported signs of disease in dogs include infertility, spontaneous abortions, and stillbirths. While *B. canis* can infect any dog, disease is more commonly identified in breeding kennels as they are more likely to recognize problems with their dogs' pregnancies. Breeding kennels are also more likely to test for the illness.



Hand washing is one easy and effective way to prevent the spread of disease.

## Disease Highlights:

- **Transmission:** The most common way people become ill is probably through frequent close contact with birthing materials and abortion products from infected dogs (such as birthing fluids and placentas).
- **Risk to Humans:** Human disease is rare. People at highest risk of disease include: individuals more likely to come in contact with canine birthing materials and abortion products such as veterinarians and dog breeders. Persons with a weakened immune system due to disease or medication, young children, and pregnant women are likely at greater risk of developing more severe symptoms if they are exposed.
- **Signs in Humans:** Fever, sweats, headache, joint pain, and weakness are the most commonly reported symptoms.

## If you have contact with dogs that are giving birth, reduce your risk of being infected by:

- Testing dogs for *B. canis* prior to breeding. Infected animals should not be bred.
- Wearing rubber gloves, a face mask, and eyewear when assisting with the delivery of puppies and cleaning birthing areas.
- Double bagging all birthing products and contaminated materials. Put the bags in your regular trash container for disposal. These materials can also be incinerated.
- Disinfecting contaminated hard surfaces with a fresh dilution of 2.5 percent bleach solution (add 2 parts bleach to 3 parts cool water). Let the disinfectant sit for 10 minutes before wiping the surface clean. (Disinfecting with bleach may discolor carpet and fabrics. If these items become contaminated consult IDPH for further guidance.)
- Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after touching animals and cleaning kennels.

If you have come in contact with an infected dog or contaminated materials, call your health care provider. Watch for signs of illness (such as fever, sweats, headache, joint pain, or weakness). Individuals with a weakened immune system due to disease or medication, young children, and pregnant women should not handle infected dogs or contaminated materials.

For More Information Visit:

CDC at [www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/brucellosis/](http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/brucellosis/)  
CFSPH Animal Disease Information at [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/fastfacts.php](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/fastfacts.php)