**Brucella canis** (updated 31 August 2023 to reflect current APHA recommendations) ****

In line with current guidelines from government and veterinary advisory bodies (please see attached information from APHA), Surgeon on Site are implementing some precautions to safeguard our staff from potential exposure to Brucella Canis infection.

**We ask that all referral patients that fall into any of these categories:**

* **originates from outside of the U.K.**
* **previously travelled to Eastern Europe**
* **living with an animal imported from Eastern Europe**

**are tested for Brucella canis prior to their surgery date.**

**As part of this, we request that it is made clear during the referral process if the animal falls into one of these categories.**

We recommend that testing is done by antibody testing on serum from at-risk patients. This must be submitted to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) for testing. Results take from 7-21 days to be returned.

The codes for the screening tests are:

* TC1032 (SAT for Brucella canis antibody)
* TC0116 (Brucella canis iELISA)

Both tests should be requested. Price lists and test codes can be found at the APHA gov.uk website (Laboratory services and prices/ APHA Scientific Tests/ other species serology/ Submission Form LSW008.)

We are aware that many clinics already have protocols in place to test for Brucella canis – if so, please indicate or include the negative serology results from your previous testing (must have been carried out at least 3 months after import/travel) in your referral information.

If serology testing has not been carried out or time has not allowed (e.g. fracture repair) in an animal from a high-risk area e.g. Romania, Russia and Afghanistan, we may ask you to carry out a patient-side test prior to surgery. These tests have a high incidence of false-positive results – a positive result would have to confirmed via APHA serology testing, and in the meantime, the patient would have to isolated as if positive and surgery may not be able to proceed as planned.

Thank you for your help in implementing this protocol and safe-guarding our staff.

Kind regards

The Surgeon on Site Team