

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23      APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON ONE HEALTH

SUBJECT MATTER:          Canine Brucellosis and Human Health

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

*Brucella canis* (*B. canis*) is one of three *Brucella* species with the greatest One Health relevance in the United States. The true prevalence of the disease in dogs is not well understood. Knowledge gaps exist regarding the human health impacts of and risk factors for *B. canis* infection. Additional critical needs include a better understanding of the relationship between seropositivity and an individual dog's infectiousness. This helps inform state level policy and response. State animal health authorities and state public health officials are routinely asked to make recommendations or adopt and enforce state regulations in response to reports of seropositive animals. However, the public and animal health concern associated with these cases is often not clear. Further, concerted efforts in these areas will advance our knowledge and facilitate a more evidence based and standardized approach to *B. canis* investigations. In turn, this could lead to comprehensive national guidelines that would augment those already developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for dog breeding facilities by addressing dogs in various settings such as animal shelters and non-commercial breeding operations, as well as stray populations. Authors of a recent study of *B. canis* infections in pet-quality dogs and human exposures reflected that "Officials from states in which canine brucellosis is a reportable disease (including the study authors), indicated that the absence of universally accepted guidelines for control and prevention of *B. canis* infection delayed their responses during outbreaks because of the time and effort needed to develop and implement their own protocols." The National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recognize the importance of addressing *B. canis* as both an animal and public health issue. It is imperative that USDA develop a better understanding of *B. canis* and its impact to assist state animal and public health officials. Additional information will assist with better, faster, more consistent, and more evidence-based approaches for *B. canis* prevention and control.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Public Health, National Association of State Public Health

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Veterinarians, and National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials develop and publish a compendium of guidelines and recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis, management, and treatment of *Brucella canis* (*B. canis*) in people and in dogs (used for breeding as well as family pets) using a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, USAHA requests the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Board of Regents consider *B. canis* as a topic for a consensus statement.