**Symptoms:**
1. Reproductive failure: abortions, still births, infertility
2. Genital abnormalities: orchitis, epididymitis, scrotal edema, scrotal dermatitis
3. Lymphadenitis
4. Discospondylitis
5. Uveitis
6. Generalized pain, unexplained lameness/back pain

Veterinary evaluation should be done to rule out other potential causes of symptoms.

**Risk factors:**
1. Dogs that originate from areas with large numbers of stray and sexually intact dogs.
2. Newly adopted/rescued animals if testing history is unavailable.
3. Ureaplasma urealyticum infections
4. Periparturient dogs that were not tested prior to breeding.
5. Sexually intact dogs as part of a routine pre-breeding examination.

- Dogs that move through shelters/rescue groups should be tested prior to adopting.

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A symptomatic animal that is **ELISA negative** may be a chronically infected animal. Infected animals may fluctuate between serologically positive and negative, therefore recommend retesting ELISA after 30-60 days or consider additional testing: culture, IFA, or AGID.

- **ELISA negative on retest** after 30-60 days is considered negative if animal is asymptomatic.
- **ELISA negative on 2nd retest** considered negative after if animal is symptomatic.
- An asymptomatic animal that is **ELISA positive on retest** after 30-60 days is considered positive.
**Brucella canis** ELISA Test Interpretation for Veterinarians

Last updated October 2022

When to test for **B. canis**:
- Dogs with **B. canis** symptoms when an alternative diagnosis cannot be determined.
- Dogs with 1 or more risk factor (See Surveillance Flow Chart)

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**How to test for B. canis**:
- ELISA = primary screening test
- Submit serum to Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, test listed under **B. ovis** ELISA

**Retest Protocol**:
Use the same test and lab for retesting
- Recommend quarantine during the 30-60 day waiting period between testing

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**S/P value**
1. Sample/Positive value = comparison of how closely related the sample is to a known positive
2. S/P > 3 is highly suspicious for infection; however, lower positive S/P values can also indicate infection
   - Additional testing may be necessary for definitive diagnosis: Culture, IFA, AGID; call Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab for information.
3. > 0.8 S/P is considered positive result; however, each case must be interpreted with individual context due to possible exposure titers
   - When unclear, consider any positive result as active infection, quarantine, and retest with ELISA after 30-60 days or advise ancillary testing.

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**Additional testing**:
- Culture, IFA, AGID, or repeat ELISA after 30-60 days and risk management of animal

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**Positive animal management**:
- Euthanasia recommended
- Alternatively, a lifelong quarantine, treatment with antibiotics, retest and disclosure of diagnosis to adopters/owners.

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