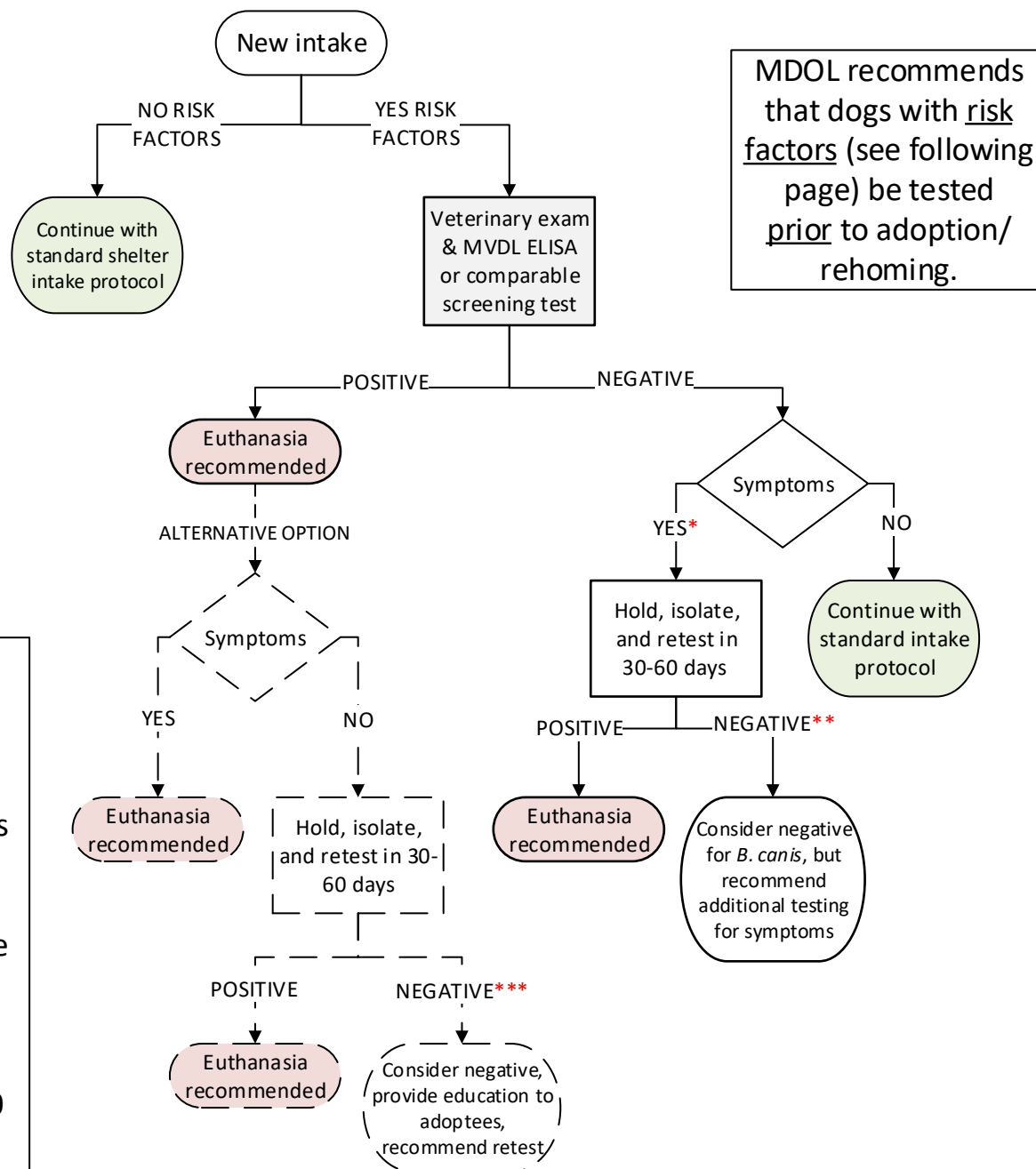


Brucella canis Surveillance Recommendations for Shelter/Rescue Dogs

Last updated October 2023



If a dog with a positive *B. canis* test is placed in a home prior to retest, the animal is to be adopted under quarantine with DOL disclosure form signed by the owner. Retest must be performed in 30-60 days.

*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, multiplex, or PCR.

**Initial ELISA negative and negative on retest after 30-60 days is considered negative even if the dog is symptomatic. Recommend additional work-up to determine cause of symptoms.

***Initial ELISA positive and retest negative after 30-60 days is considered negative if asymptomatic. However, disclosure of initial test result recommended, education must be provided, and an additional retest is recommended after 30-60 days.

***Brucella canis* information**

Risk Factors/Who to Test

1. Stray/found dogs entering rescue that originate from areas with large numbers of stray, sexually intact dogs.
2. Dogs entering rescue when testing or history is unavailable.
3. Periparturient or pregnant dogs that were not tested prior to breeding.
4. Dogs with exposure to a known *B. canis* positive dog.
5. Dogs with symptoms consistent with *B. canis* infection.
6. Sexually intact dogs as part of a routine pre-breeding exam; breeding kennels should test all dogs at least once yearly.

Symptoms

1. Reproductive abnormalities: abortions, stillbirths, infertility, weak pups that die soon after birth
2. Genital abnormalities: orchitis, epididymitis, scrotal edema
3. Discospondylitis
4. Lymphadenitis
5. Unexplained lameness and/or pain
6. Uveitis
7. Lethargy
8. Anorexia
9. Dog may be asymptomatic.

How To Reduce Risk of Human Exposure

1. WASH HANDS often.
2. Understand which dogs are high-risk.
3. Wear gloves when handling bodily fluids including reproductive fluids, urine, feces, vomit, and blood.
4. Wear protective eye gear, face mask, and gloves with helping with whelping especially if puppies are aborted, stillborn, or abnormal.
5. Avoid mouthing from dogs.
6. Normal disinfectants kill the bacteria readily. Be sure to follow disinfectant instructions to ensure proper use.

* Risk for transmission to humans and risk of severe illness appears low. Following normal precautions, which minimizes risk for all contagious diseases that animal caretakers are potentially exposed to, should also be protective against *B. canis*.