

## Biosecurity - *Brucella suis* in dogs

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### Management of the biosecurity risk

The main risk posed by *Brucella suis* (*B. suis*) infection in dogs is zoonotic disease risk that could lead to chronic disease in people and fatalities. *B. suis* infection in dogs also has the potential to spread to other domestic species, such as domestic pigs and cattle, and this could impact on trade for these industries in Australia.

### Scope

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) promotes biosecurity as a shared responsibility between government, industry and communities. This procedure is a State Priority for NSW and should be read in conjunction with the policy 'Endemic Pests and Diseases of Animals'. The procedure applies to the NSW Department of Primary Industry (NSW DPI), an office with the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their role as authorised officers under the Act.

### Biosecurity legislation summary

*Brucella suis* is listed in Schedule one, Part one of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, which lists the pests and diseases of animals which require notification. Any person that suspects or knows a dog is infected with *B. suis* has a duty to notify an authorised officer as defined in the Act. Owners and people handling dogs suspected or known to be infected with *B. suis* have a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of spread of *B. suis*.

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency, or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

### Work health and safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or Undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

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# Brucella suis in dogs procedure

## 1. Responsibilities

### 1.1 NSW DPI Biosecurity and Food Safety authorised officer

- attend expert group meetings, when convened, to discuss the management plan for *B. suis* infection in dogs on a public health level. Meeting would be attended by NSW DPI, NSW Health and experts in infectious animal diseases
- maintain content of NSW DPI webpage, [Brucellosis \(Brucella suis\) in dogs](#)
- discuss positive and inconclusive cases with primary care veterinary practitioner
- notify NSW Health of positive and inconclusive cases
- provide quarterly report to surveillance manager for [National Animal Health Information System](#), using Sample Manager- see appendix two
- enter all positive and inconclusive results to RM8 (INT15/57088)
- enter all laboratory reports into LHMS
- reporting on *B. suis* infection in dogs in NSW to be used in scientific presentations/publications and where approved, shared with researchers.

### 1.2 Local Land Services

- educate the community and private veterinary practitioners on how to prevent, eliminate and minimise the risk of *B. suis* infection in dogs.

## 2. Procedure

### 2.1 Notification of suspect or confirmed case of *B. suis* infection in a dog to an authorised officer

- NSW DPI veterinary authorised officer receives laboratory report that is positive or inconclusive for *B. suis* infection in a dog
- authorised officer receives report of suspect *B. suis* infection in a dog. The authorised officer will direct the person reporting the suspect animal to visit a private veterinary practitioner for sample collection and submission of samples to the NSW DPI laboratory services.

### 2.2 Discussion between primary care private veterinary practitioner and NSW DPI veterinary authorised officer in positive or inconclusive results

Veterinary authorised officer telephones private veterinary practitioner within one working day of receiving final laboratory report and advises that:

- owner of dog receive the appropriate [Primefact Brucellosis \(Brucella suis\) in dogs](#)
- in-contact dogs, from the same owner, should be tested; cost of sample transport and testing is covered by NSW DPI
- owner's details are to be forwarded to NSW Health for the purpose of infectious disease control
- the private veterinarian should consult both the [Brucellosis in dogs guidelines for veterinarians](#) and [Safe work method statement – B. suis sample collection](#) available on the NSW DPI website
- the private veterinarian may choose to collect samples for submission to assist with PCR development for *Brucella suis* positive dogs project that is currently underway in NSW. [Request to collect samples from Brucella suis positive dogs for PCR development](#)
- the Veterinary authorised officer follows up the phone call with an email to the private veterinarian with links to the above documents if this is the first time the clinic has diagnosed *B. suis* in a dog.

### 2.3 Notification of positive and inconclusive results to NSW Health

- Veterinary authorised officer forwards positive and inconclusive results to NSW Health as per the following procedure 'Reporting prohibited matter, biosecurity events and other notifiable diseases'.

#### 2.4 Data entry of *B. suis* in dog testing

- Veterinary authorised officer completes spreadsheet in RM8, "Summary of positive and inconclusive *B. suis* in dogs 2012 onwards (INT15/57088)", within three business days of receiving the final laboratory report.
- Veterinary authorised officer enters all *B. suis in dogs* laboratory reports into Livestock Health Management System (LHMS) within three business days of receiving the final laboratory report.

### 3. Definitions and acronyms

AC	anti-complementary
CFT	Complement fixation test
Inconclusive test result	RBT positive + (CFT<16 OR AC) + history (pig hunting, eating raw feral pig meat, contact with positive dog) ± clinical signs
LHMS	Livestock Health Management System
LLS	Local Land Services
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
RBT	Rose Bengal test
Positive test result	culture positive OR RBT positive + CFT≥16

### 4. Documentation

Available on the NSW DPI webpage, [Brucellosis \(\*Brucella suis\*\) in dogs](#).  
[Primefact - Brucellosis \(\*Brucella suis\*\) in dogs](#).  
[Brucellosis in dogs guidelines for veterinarians \[PUB16/206\]](#).  
[Safe work method statement – B. suis sample collection \(INT15/98396\)](#).  
[Request to collect samples from \*Brucella suis\* positive dogs for PCR development \(INT15/99917\)](#).  
 Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information  
 Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)  
 Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)  
 Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)  
 Policy -Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)  
 Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information  
 Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals

### 5. Records

Summary of positive and inconclusive *B. suis* in dogs 2012 onwards (INT15/57088).

NAHIS report quarterly to Surveillance Manager.

LHMS.

### 6. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	01/07/2017	New procedure developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare

### 7. Contact

Biosecurity NSW – General Enquires  
 1800 808 095  
[biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Appendix One: Livestock Health Management System entry

If private veterinarian has conducted the investigation then create new non-PIC contact (if needed):

- add private veterinarian that submitted sample (first and last name)
- organisation - add veterinary business name
- contact category- select veterinarian – private
- mail Contact Detail:
  - add suburb/locality of the veterinarian business
  - add postcode of veterinary business.

Then create a new diagnostic event:

- contact method: “report” if private veterinary practitioner has completed the investigation; Differential diagnosis should include *Brucella suis*
- program: “surveillance”
- complete notes section, lab tests tag, diagnosis.

## Appendix Two: Quarterly reporting for surveillance manager

- surveillance manager sends template for completion quarterly
- complete using information in “All dog jobs” folder in sample manager
  - Userreference- laboratory report number
  - Labrefno- laboratory report number
  - Disease- *Brucella suis*
  - Species- DOG
  - Evdate- date sent on laboratory report
  - Location- nxx
  - Latitude- surveillance manager completes
  - Longitude- surveillance manager completes
  - Response- 2
  - Outcome- positive or negative; NSW DPI Veterinary authorised officer to determine if inconclusive results recorded as positive or negative based on history and clinical signs for NAHIS reporting purposes.
  - exclude any testing performed as monitoring.