



THE SCOTTIE GUARDIAN



Quarterly Newsletter of the STCA's Health Trust Fund

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Welcome to the 4th edition of the STCA's Health Trust Fund eNewsletter!



Hard to believe we are already wrapping up 2019 with this last edition of *the Scottie Guardian*. We hope you have enjoyed the articles and have found the information useful. Please let us know if there are topics you would like for us to include or have questions we will try to answer!

In this edition, among other items, you will find an important article on Canine Brucellosis. All breeders need to take note and follow the experts' guidelines that are laid out in the article. Do not ignore this threat to your dogs and your breeding programs.

Enjoy the beautiful Fall weather as we approach the end of year Holiday Season, and the very best to all of our readers and their wonderful Scotties from the HTF!

Marcia Dawson, Chairman
hijinkscot@gmail.com

Be sure to visit the STCA webpage at www.stca.biz for more details on Health and the Health Trust Fund pages, including links to the ScottiePhile Health library and HTF donation pages.

Canine Brucellosis

Do we still need to worry about it?



Short answer: YES!

Long answer:

Canine Brucellosis is the disease caused by the *Brucella canis* bacteria. It has been a “back-burner” kind of disease for a while, and some breeders have grown complacent about testing after decades of not hearing about any cases, anywhere. A few breeders actually believe this disease has been eliminated from our dog population.

But bad news, folks! Not only is Brucellosis still with us, it is actually on the rise due in large part to the importation and distribution of affected, carrier, and untested dogs into the United States and by our lackadaisical attitude about testing. According to Dr. Margaret Kooda, STCA member, Scottie breeder and veterinarian specializing in reproduction, Brucellosis is spreading across the country, and every state has reported cases. Brucellosis is a reportable disease to state veterinarians, so it can be managed and tracked after a reported case. But by the time dogs are diagnosed with this disease, it might be too late for your kennels and your dogs.

What is the big deal about Brucellosis? Plenty!

EASE OF INFECTION: Brucellosis can be transmitted sexually during natural service, but also when artificial methods are used with fresh, chilled or frozen semen. Dogs can also contract Brucellosis by doing what dogs do best: sniffing, licking, and eating gross things. If your dog comes in contact with saliva, vaginal discharge, urine, feces, aborted fetuses, milk, placentas, or semen from affected and/or carrier dogs, there is a very real chance that they will also become infected. Dr. Kooda adds that this disease can be aerosolized while cleaning, and carried on shoes, kennels, bowls. The bacteria can survive in the environment for months when the conditions are right. At highest risk for infection are stray dogs, dogs in groups and kennels, and dogs in your breeding program exposed and/or bred to a newly arrived, affected dog or bitch. Dogs can be exposed at dog shows or trials, at dog parks, or just walking down the street sniffing where another, infected dog has urinated. There are even documented cases of pet dogs being infected as well.

A BAD DISEASE: Affected bitches will have a variety of symptoms including infertility, resorption, abortion between the 45th and 59th day of gestation, and/or fading neonatal puppies. Males may experience swollen, painful testicles, poor semen quality and failure to settle bitches. Spinal disease, eye disorders, kidney disease, multiple joint arthritis and nervous system signs can also occur. However, it is also possible for dogs to be infected and be actively shedding the bacteria **without any obvious signs of disease**.

DAY THE DEAD
OCTOBER 31-
NOVEMBER
2, 2019



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YOU CAN CATCH IT TOO:

Dr. Marty Greer, veterinarian, reproduction specialist, and attorney, writes the following for the AKC: "Canine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease. This means the disease can be spread to humans and is known as undulant fever. Once in the human, the disease may never be eliminated – it hangs out in the bone marrow of the unfortunate recipient[s] for the rest of their lives, causing waxing and waning symptoms that include fever, aches, and symptoms similar to that of influenza. It is of particular concern in the very young, the very old, patients who are immunocompromised such as patients on chemotherapy, steroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, and patients with diseases such as the human AIDS virus. Women who are pregnant can lose a pregnancy – and when you consider most caretakers of dogs in shelters, humane societies, rescue organizations, dog breeding kennels are young females of child-bearing age, this is especially worrisome."

**HARD TO TREAT:**

Brucellosis is not an easy disease to treat. Any dog that tests positive must be spayed/neutered and isolated from all the other dogs in the kennel for the rest of its lifetime. There are drugs can that be tried, but treatment may take several years to be effective, if at all, and persistently positive dogs must be euthanized.

THE BEST DEFENSE IS TESTING:

Who should be tested? According to Dr. Kooda, bitches should be tested every 6 months while actively breeding. Stud dogs also should be tested twice a year in a closed kennel situation. Dogs should be tested within one month of being collected for the shipment of chilled semen or before breeding outside females. And they should be tested **every time** before frozen semen is processed. All non-breeding dogs in a kennel should be tested yearly. Any newly arrived dog should be tested, quarantined, and retested in one month. And finally, any dog having suspicious symptoms or infertility issues should be tested.



There are screening tests and confirmatory tests. The first test to run is the screening RSAT (rapid slide agglutination test). This is a very sensitive test, and you can trust a negative result. However, there can be false positives. If you get a positive result on the screening test, then you have to run the more specific lab test to confirm the result. These tests take time, and many people wait until their bitch is in season to test. The screening test takes 2 to 3 days to get results, and the confirmatory test takes a lot longer. If you are planning to breed your bitch, have her tested well in advance of taking her to the male, and make sure you show the stud dog owner the test results.

According to Dr. Greer, if you second, confirmatory test, be your state veterinarian. have serial positive test euthanized. This decision is by the state Veterinarian housed. In most states, this is this means if your dog to have a positive a confirmatory test, your veterinarian is required to contact your State Veterinarian. In most states, there are written requirements for how individual and groups of affected dogs need to be managed. You don't get to decide – it is in the hands of the authorities. Spaying and neutering along with long-term use of antibiotics are not 100% effective in managing this nasty bacterial infection. For this reason, euthanasia of all persistently infected dogs is frequently the outcome."



get a positive on the prepared to hear from "Dogs that are found to results are usually made at the local level, where the dog(s) are a reportable disease – veterinarian finds your brucellosis test result on





GLAD YOU ASKED!!

This column will appear in each issue of the Newsletter. You ask the question and we'll attempt to answer it.

Q: Is there an easy way to remember what people foods are safe to feed my Scottie and which foods to avoid?

A: Yes! Here is an easy chart to keep on hand. (Note: *No diet peanut butter as it may contain Xylitol which is very toxic to dogs.*)

woofipedia.com

'PAWS' BEFORE FEEDING

Do you know which human foods are safe for your pet? Refer to this handy guide for a breakdown of safe and unsafe common kitchen staples, and when in doubt, consult your veterinarian.

CHEW*	DON'T CHEW
apples	tree nuts
banana	avocados
peanut butter	grapes
carrots	raisins
string cheese	pits from cherries, apricots, and peaches
boneless chicken	tomato leaves/stems

*Although these foods can be tolerated (and enjoyed) by pets, everything is best in moderation.

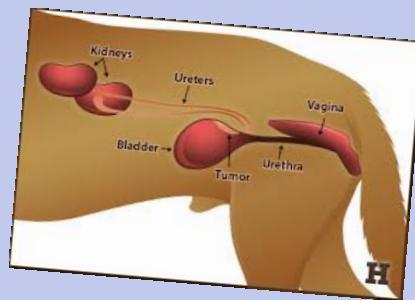
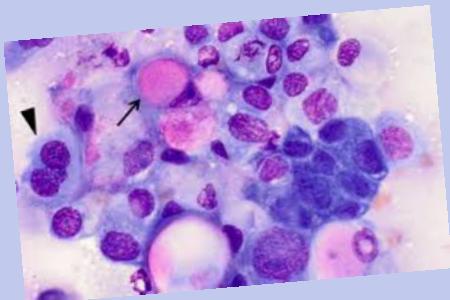
BULLETIN BOARD

Bladder Screening Clinics 2020 Reminder!

Notice: The HTF has extended the deadline for the submission of proposals for the 2020 Bladder Screening Clinics. STCA Regional Clubs will now have until December 31, 2019 to submit a proposal to the HTF for a clinic to be held during 2020. Be sure to make plans for this opportunity to hold an important clinic for the health of your Scotties!

The HTF will be donating \$2000 per club for this project, for up to three Regional Clubs. The Clubs must submit a proposal to the HTF for final determination of which three clubs will be awarded this funding.

For more information and to receive a packet of recommendations and forms to use, please contact Marcia Dawson hijinkscot@gmail.com or Helen Prince haprince@comcast.net





From Your Editor's Desk

Most Scottie people go to the USDA or the FDA or their favorite dog website for animal health news and information but did you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a "Healthy Pets" section? (see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>)

The web site is broken down into four sections which are further subdivided. The four sections are:

- 1. About Pets and Persons**
- 2. Pets and Other Animals**
- 3. Animal-related Diseases**
- 4. Animal Tales & Features**

The Animal-related Diseases section lists over 100 diseases that can be transmitted between animals and people (they are called zoonotic diseases). If you click on a disease (I chose Brucellosis), you'll see

The Scottish Terrier Club of America's Health Trust fund is a 501c3 organization established in 1994 for the purpose of supporting research to benefit all Scotties, investigating and monitoring health issues in the breed using registries, databases and health surveys, and communicating important new health information and research findings to all Scottie owners. All donations made to the HTF are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

information on transmission, treatment, prevention, risks of exposure, signs and symptoms, and resources. There's also a section for travelers and a case report form.

When Mom clicked on Brucellosis, the first thing she saw was the following alert:

Exposures to Drug-Resistant Brucellosis Linked to Raw Milk



February 8, 2019

The CDC and state health officials are investigating potential exposures to *Brucella RB51* in 19 states, connected to consuming raw (unpasteurized) milk from Miller's Biodiversity Farm in Quarryville, Pennsylvania.

My mom worked in the rabies research laboratory for 12 years (she then switched to HIV/AIDS) and my dad ran the whooping cough laboratory after years working on Legionnaire's Disease>

Until next time...

Ragin Sanden, your editor