



Ms Buckley
request-967662-d35c7254@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI2023/06742
27 April 2023

Dear Ms Buckley,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Brucella Canis testing

Thank you for your request for information of 3rd April about Brucella Canis testing. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

"I would like to request the following:

1. The published methodology (including how the result is derived and converted into a reportable result) for each of the following Brucella canis tests that you offer:
 - a. TC1542 Brucella canis RSA
 - b. TC1032 Brucella canis SAT
 - c. TC0867 Brucella canis ELISA
2. For each of the individual tests above, I would like to know:
 - a) The specificity
 - b) The sensitivity
2. The prevalence of the disease within the sample used to generate these values.
3. The test that was used to validate these against.
4. As veterinary professionals are expected to practice evidence-based medicine, it is expected that a clinician should be able to assess the validity of the test(s) and then use this to determine the value of the test in determining care for the individual patient in front of them. Therefore, I would be grateful if you would also publish (for each of these tests) a normogram that reports the likelihood ratio across a range of prevalences from 0.01% - 100%.
5. I would also like a copy of the mathematical calculations used to determine the combined sensitivity and specificity values when testing a dog for Brucella canis using your recommended combined approach (i.e. Elisa and SAT). Please also confirm the sensitivity and specificity values that you are currently (as of 0.04.2023) providing veterinary professionals with, and indicate if this has changed in the last 12 months.
6. For (5) I would also like a copy of the assumptions that must hold in order for using the

combined values to be valid.”

The information you have requested has been exempted from release citing the following exemption Section 22 of the Freedom of information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication

This exemption requires a public interest test.

Public interest test

APHA have concluded that the public interest in withholding the information sought outweighs the public interest in its disclosure. Releasing information now before it has been finalised would be misleading to the public and this would contradict the principles behind Freedom of Information. It is in the public interest to wait until the information has been collected, assessed and quality checked rather than to release the information in a piecemeal fashion. Given the importance of publishing only appropriately collated and checked figures, it is reasonable to expect that this information should be published in line with accepted practice rather than disclosed before official publication. The anticipated peer review submission is to take place in the next few months.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government’s Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach an Annex explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Team

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.