



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Ms Buckley
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Our ref: FOI2023/13473
14 July 2023

Dear Ms Buckley

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Brucella canis testing

Thank you for your request for information of 10th July about Brucella canis testing. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below:

Many thanks for sending me this information. Much appreciated, and I appreciate that this is interim information.

So, based on the current state of information vis a vis the specificity of the ELISA (98.91%) and the specificity of the RSA (98.68%), if a veterinary practice was to use the RSA/ELISA combination of testing (as opposed to the SAT & ELISA) in a parallel testing approach (i.e. both tests carried out together, and if either test is positive then the dog is treated as sero-positive), we would expect the positive predictive value (+ number of false positives among dogs that test positive to be):

If the prevalence is 1%:

- the PPV will be: 27% (so in every 100 dogs that tested positive, 73 would be false positives on average) If the prevalence is 2%:

- the PPV will be: 43% (so in every 100 dogs that tested positive, 57 would be false positives on average) If the prevalence is 3%:

the PPV will be: 54% (so in every 100 dogs that tested positive, 46 would be false positives on average) If the prevalence is 4%:

the PPV will be: 61% (so in every 100 dogs that tested positive, 39 would be false positives on average) If the prevalence is 5%:

the PPV will be: 66% (so in every 100 dogs that tested positive, 34 would be false positives on average) These are very high values and I wondered what guidance the Chief Veterinary Officer would give in respect of this, should veterinary professionals be considering using this combination (given that it is still available to request)?

It is looking like the prevalence of BC among overseas European dogs imported into the UK will be at the lower end of the scale which would suggest that, if the chief veterinary officer is advising euthanasia (which some veterinary professionals appear to believe is the recommendation for a dog that tests positive), that the Chief Veterinary Officer is effectively recommending euthanasia of often or mainly dogs that do not have Brucella canis. I welcome Christine Middlemiss' thoughts on this."

This does not appear to be a request for recorded information. The Access to Information Team at APHA respond to requests for recorded information under the legislation, for example the Freedom of information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 16 - Advice and Assistance

If you wish to ask the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Christine Middlemiss an opinion or guidance on a particular subject, they can be contacted via:

To contact us regarding policy enquiries (not covered by the above guidance) please email defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk

Or follow Christine on Twitter [@ChiefVet](https://twitter.com/ChiefVet)

This request is now closed.

An annex is attached giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team at the address at the top of this letter or 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 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. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

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