Brucellosis Testing in a Windsprite Breeding Program
International Windsprite Club

Brucellosis is caused by the bacterium *Brucella canis* and is a serious illness in both dogs and humans. The International Windsprite Club Breeder Code of Ethics includes a commitment to conduct recurring completion of brucellosis testing within 6 months prior to breeding.

Why is Brucellosis Testing Important?

- Brucellosis is transmittable from dogs to humans, and it can cause significant illness in people. It is a serious public health concern.
- Brucellosis easily spreads between dogs via venereal contact, as well as contact with various bodily fluids.
- Brucellosis causes canine infertility and illness. The reproductive organs become inflamed, which can result in abortion, early fetal death & absorption, scarring of fallopian tubes, poor sperm quality, and prostatic disease. Lymphadenitis, discospondylitis, uveitis, and waxing & waning malaise can also occur.
- A dog infected with brucellosis cannot be cured of the disease, only treated and managed throughout a dog's lifetime. Because of the risk to humans, euthanasia is often recommended for brucellosis positive dogs.

In accordance with the American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) and the Society for Theriogenology (SFT) all dogs intended for breeding (via live cover or using assisted reproduction techniques) should have a negative screening test either at the time of breeding or every six months. They also recommend that all imported dogs be negative for brucellosis. Brucellosis testing should be performed by a veterinarian's office or a clinical laboratory. Any positive test warrants additional confirmatory testing to ensure it is not a false positive. Any dog diagnosed with brucellosis by a veterinarian should be immediately removed from a breeding program and isolated from other dogs.

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