

# BRUCELLOSIS

## ZOONOSES FACTSHEET

Diseases that spread from animals to people

### WHAT IS IT?

Brucellosis is a disease caused by bacteria (germs). There are many different strains of these bacteria called *Brucella*, all which can cause the same disease.

### HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Brucellosis is spread through body fluids such as blood, saliva and urine. Many different animals can be infected, but in Australia - we worry most about *Brucella* spreading from wild pigs/boars to dogs and people during pig hunting. Dogs can also spread *Brucella* through mating.

In Australia, people mostly get Brucellosis from pig hunting activities.

The bacteria can get into the body through the eyes, nose, mouth or skin. People are most at risk during hunting related activities (e.g. field dressing, butchering) but also from handling raw meat/preparing for cooking and eating under-cooked meat.



### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

**In animals:** Infected dogs may have problems with their eyes, joints and/or kidneys. Pregnant dams may abort their puppies.

**In people:** Mild infections in healthy people can cause flu-like symptoms. Severe infections can sometimes happen, especially if the person is very young, old or otherwise sick - these can cause heart, kidney or neurological (brain) problems.

### HOW CAN YOU PREVENT IT?

#### In animals:

- Desex dogs to reduce mating
- Do not feed dogs raw meat, especially if home killed and not from the shop
- Take care if you see aborted puppies/piglets/lambs/calves
  - Do not let dogs near the dead babies
  - Call the vet for advice

#### Prevention of transmission to people:

- Practice good hygiene and wash hands with soap often
- Take care when hunting and butchering to stay clean
- Take care when preparing raw meat for cooking
- Do not eat under cooked meat especially if home killed and not from the shop

If you are feeling sick - **call the health clinic.**

**For more information:** please contact AMRRIC on (08) 8948 1768, email us at [info@amrric.org](mailto:info@amrric.org) or visit our website: [www.amrric.org](http://www.amrric.org)

#### REFERENCES

Brooks, W., (2019) *Brucellosis in Dogs*, Veterinary Partner, Veterinary Information Network, <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4952554>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019) *Brucellosis*, Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP), <https://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/index.html>.

Image 1: Dog in community looks like a Bull Arab cross, a breed which is regularly used for pig hunting, courtesy of AMRRIC. Other images are stock photos.

