



The NLRC was organized in 1996 with the idea of creating a national club that would preserve and promote the Labrador Retriever. Everyone in the Labrador community is welcome...from pet owners to old timers.

We are a National Lab Club formed by the members, for the members, working together for the preservation and protection of the Labrador Retriever.

THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

SPRING 2020 ELECTRONIC EDITION

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## Canine Brucellosis - It's still alive and well!

Is Canine Brucellosis a concern?

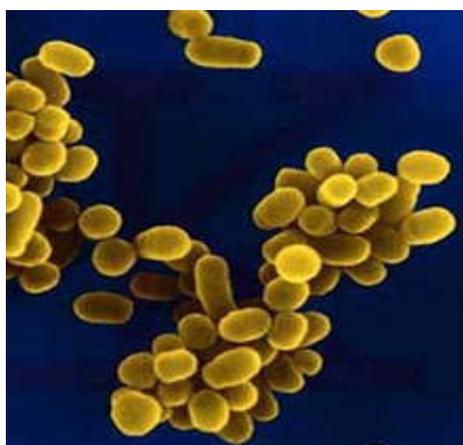
Yes...it sure is!

Canine Brucellosis is caused by the strain *Brucella Canis*. This strain of *Brucella* only infects canines. There are related strains of brucellosis that largely are found to affect ruminants, such as *Brucella Abortus*, *Brucella Suis* and *Brucella Melitensis*. These lesser familiar strains to dog owners of the brucella family prefer to affect cattle, sheep and goats but can still infect our beloved Labradors as well.



*Brucella Canis* causes abortion in the female dog during the last trimester, which occurs between 45 and 55 days of gestation.

The bacteria is spread via the oral ingestion of contaminated materials or via sexual transmission during breeding. Transmission of *Brucella Canis* has also been reported as having happened from contaminated urine. What is included in "contaminated materials?" Contaminated materials include an infected dogs' blood, an infected dog's milk, vaginal exudate, aborted pups themselves and/or the semen of an infected dog. (continued next page)



**Brucellosis...  
Canine Health Alert!**

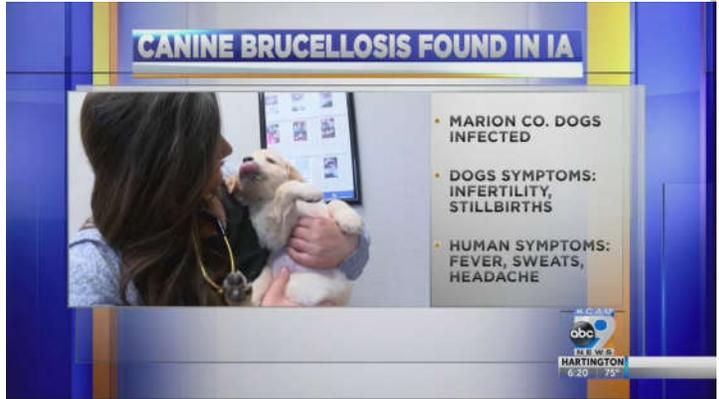
## Canine Brucellosis continued from page 1

Scientists have attempted to produce an immunization that would immunize dogs against Canine Brucellosis but have as of yet, been unsuccessful. An article in ScienceDirect from 2017 details a bactericidal serum against *Brucella canis* in dogs that was tested on Beagles but the researchers concluded that additional testing was still mandated despite its success when used on the limited number of sample dogs.

Where did this resurgence in what has been a largely ignored disease come from?

Imported dogs intended to improve upon our stock here in the United States and rescued dogs from South Korean meat markets that were legally brought into the United States are two known sources. One incidence with a dog from a rescued group of canines that subsequently died was autopsied and was found to be positive for Canine Brucellosis. Before that dog had died, his entire group of canines had been exposed and intermingled with a larger group of dogs in preparation for adoption. Dogs from that combined group of dogs had already been placed into the homes of the general public before the afflicted dog died.

Iowa made the news when a kennel in Marian County was found to have multiple dogs infected with Canine Brucellosis.



Canine Brucellosis is zoonotic, which means that the disease is transmittable to humans. In humans Canine Brucellosis is called Undulant Fever, Bang's disease, Malta fever, Mediterranean fever or Rock fever. The unfortunate news is that once one contracts the disease, it resides within the bone marrow in the body and can never be eliminated.

Symptoms of Undulant Fever in humans include fever, joint and muscle pain, weight loss, fatigue and symptoms similar to having the flu. Sometimes abdominal pain and a cough are present. This is an illness that is unusual in that it cycles in intensity within the body so that the victim vacillates between feeling better and feeling worse. It never goes away fully and can never be cured.

People who are young, or are very old...or people who are immunocompromised are of particular concern for their safety should they be exposed to Undulant Fever. Women who are pregnant and contract Undulant fever, like dogs with Canine brucellosis, can also lose their pregnancy.

The most common source of Undulant Fever isn't a dog, it's actually the consumption of unpasteurized milk and soft cheese made from the milk of infected animals, specifically goats.

The first line of treatment for a dog that tests positive for Canine Brucellosis is euthanasia. Isolation and treatment with antibiotics is an secondary option but treatment plans and how to manage affected or exposed dogs is often accompanied by monthly testing to ascertain the efficacy of the antibiotic treatment plan used. Treatment plans vary by state as each state has its own mandates and protocols to follow when dealing with an infected individual or group of dogs.

### Donations that are possible because of you, our valued membership!

The National Labrador Retriever Club Inc made the following donations:  
\$500 to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation to help Labrador Retrievers.

This NLRC contribution supports research and education that helps dogs and their human companions live longer, healthier lives. Donations impact canine health research and education programs that deliver new treatments, new technologies and new therapies for the Labradors of today and the tomorrow.

\$500 to the Lab-Rescue of the LRCP that helps Labradors that are abandoned who need new homes.

\$300 to Lake Erie Labrador Rescue that uses fosters to help rehabilitate the Labradors that they rescue without discrimination against older or sick Labradors so long as they have the Labrador temperament.

\$300 to the Heart of Texas Lab Rescue that accepts and places dogs only in the state of Texas. All Labradors are neutered/spayed, vaccinated and heartworm negative prior to being put up for adoption.

Please feel  
free to forward  
our  
newsletter to  
interested  
family and  
friends

## NLRC Membership -- Open Enrollment

Membership in the National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is open to all Labrador enthusiasts; however, to join you must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, Inc. and should consider the guidelines set forth in the [NLRC Code of Ethics](#) when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and selling of Labrador Retrievers.

Two types of annual individual memberships are offered:

- Full (voting member)     \$30
- Associate (non-voting)     \$20

Click the below links for NLRC

Membership forms:

[NLRC Membership Application Form \(that can be printed and mailed in with your membership fee\)](#)

Or to both apply and pay online

[NLRC Membership Application](#)

Are you listed in our [NLRC Breeders Directory](#)?

NLRC Members with full membership rights can ap-

ply to participate on the NLRC website Breeder Directory by completing the applicable section on the PDF membership application and submitting a \$10 fee.

Any questions? Contact our Interim Membership Chair:  
Sandra Underhill  
[Sandy@LabsToLove.com](mailto:Sandy@LabsToLove.com)

*We Support Studies and Grants that benefit the Labrador Retriever*

# New Members Welcomed

# Apply Online Today



## BRONZE GRAND CHAMPION SPIRIT OAKS POSEIDON

Cathy Chavez' Bronze Grand CH Spirit Oaks Poseidon



**National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.**

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The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. exists for the preservation and protection of the breed, to encourage education of the general public who may want to add a Labrador to their family and to meet a social responsibility to its members, the general public, and the Labrador world in particular. To this end, we adopted a Code of Ethics to serve as a guide.

Our Newsletter, The Labrador Connection, is published by the club periodically when sufficient material is received. The Labrador Connection's newest electronic issue is emailed to members when it is published and all issues may be viewed online at any time.

Visit our website online at [www.NationalLabradorRetrieverClub.com](http://www.NationalLabradorRetrieverClub.com)

