



Linnet Way  
Brickhill  
Bedford  
Bedfordshire  
MK41 7HN  
Tel: +(0)1234 261 839  
E: info@acornhousevets.co.uk

## **Imported diseases in dogs**

There are some infectious diseases that we can see in dogs arriving into the UK from other countries that are not seen in the UK otherwise. These diseases can cause illness in the dogs themselves, and sometimes there is a risk of the infection spreading to humans and other dogs that have contact with the imported dog.

It is important that the veterinary practice knows if your dog was born or lived in another country before coming to the UK so that any imported diseases can be detected and treated correctly.

Imported diseases that are dangerous for humans

Canine brucellosis is an infection that primarily spreads between dogs when they mate or have puppies. Unfortunately, the infection can cause serious illness in people, especially if they have contact with birthing fluids, or are splashed with blood (usually reproductive blood), urine or saliva in the eyes or mouth.

To protect the staff at Acorn House, our vets will recommend that dogs arriving from outside the UK are tested for Brucellosis. The test is a blood test. Dogs that test negative can be treated at Acorn House in the usual way. We recommend that the blood test is sent to the official government lab for testing as this is the most accurate test available. However, results can take 1-3 weeks to come back from the government lab. In an emergency situation we have lateral flow-type tests available at the practice that can



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give an answer within 30 minutes. Please note that lateral flow test results should be confirmed with a government lab test as soon as is practically possible.

If your dog has not been tested there will be some limitations as to the type of treatment we can provide. The practice will be able to provide consultations, vaccinations and blood sampling as usual, but the staff involved must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) comprising eye protection, face mask and gloves. Dogs that have not been tested will not be admitted to stay in the hospital or undergo surgery. This is to protect the health of our staff and the other patients in the hospital.

Please be aware that it takes up to 3 months for dogs to show positive on a brucella test, after contracting the infection. Therefore, dogs that have recently arrived in the UK should have their test taken 3 months after arrival, so that the result can be relied on. If a travelled dog urgently needs to be hospitalised before the 3 month mark, a lateral flow test can be used in the interim and appropriate precautions taken.

Dogs that travel regularly between the UK and other countries will need to be managed under the same guidance (PPE for handling in consultation, and blood testing prior to admission to the hospital) unless they are neutered prior to travel.

Owners should know that a positive result for Brucellosis will be automatically reported by the lab to the Animal Plant and Health Agency. Officials are likely to recommend euthanasia for any dog carrying the infection. This is to prevent spread to people and



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other dogs and because dogs that become ill with Brucellosis symptoms cannot be treated effectively. Euthanasia is not, however, mandatory.

Imported diseases that are dangerous for the dog

There are other infections that imported dogs can carry that do not become apparent for months or years after arrival. As these diseases are not native to the UK, these can be a challenge to diagnose. Some of these diseases include Leishmaniasis, Borrelia, and Anaplasmosis. It is important that our vets know if your dog was born in / has lived in countries outside of the UK so that these diseases can be considered if your pet falls ill. Blood tests can be performed to check if your pet is carrying one of these diseases.

Heartworms are a parasite found outside of the UK. Many of the worming products used routinely in the UK are dangerous if given to pets that are already affected by heartworm. It is recommended that pets that were born in or have lived in countries outside of the UK are tested for heartworm with a blood test before routine worming treatment is prescribed to them.

Fees

First consultation £62.32

Blood test for Canine Brucellosis (official test to government lab)  
£159

Blood test for Canine Brucellosis (emergency lateral flow test) £95



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4DX blood test for Heartworm, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia, and Borrelia  
£145

Blood test for Leishmaniasis £153

Blood test for Heartworm only £137