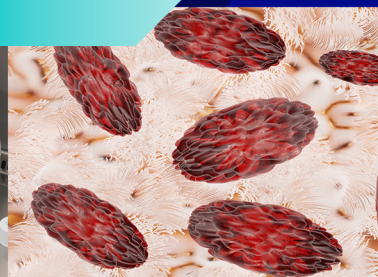


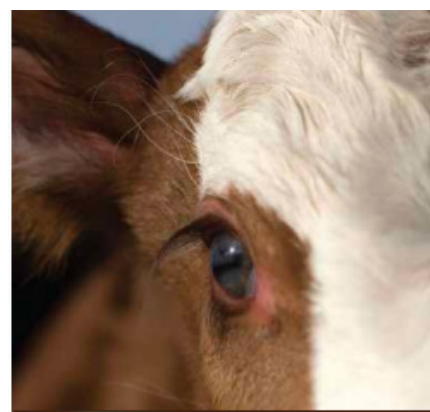
# Abattoirs: BRUCELLOSIS



## InfoPak

### WHAT IS BRUCELLOSIS?

- A bacterial disease that infects many different animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and dogs) AND PEOPLE!
- Our animals mostly get infected through direct contact with birthing materials and fluids (such as aborted foetuses, placenta) as well as milk, urine, blood and semen of infected animals
  - Equipment, feed and water can also become infected and spread this bacteria in our animals
- **Important! Some animals carry Brucella but do not show signs. They appear healthy but can spread the bacteria through the herd for long periods of time!**
  - This is why we need to be aware of it and prevent it!
- Brucella in livestock typically causes reproductive problems such as abortion, stillbirth and infertility = huge production and financial losses!
  - Animals can also develop arthritis (joint pain) and mastitis (teat infection)
- Prevention is KEY! We have Brucella across the whole of South Africa:
  - All female cattle MUST be vaccinated between 4-8mths
  - Know your herd status – test your cattle!
  - Only buy animals from recently tested, negative herds. ASK FOR PROOF
  - Make sure your fencing is intact and do not share grazing with untested animals!



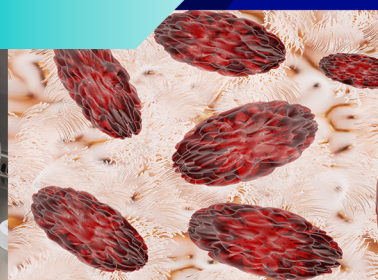
**PLAY YOUR PART  
IN THE WAR  
AGAINST  
BRUCELLOSIS**

Brucellosis is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984  
(Act No. 35 of 1984)

### BRUCELLA IN HUMANS

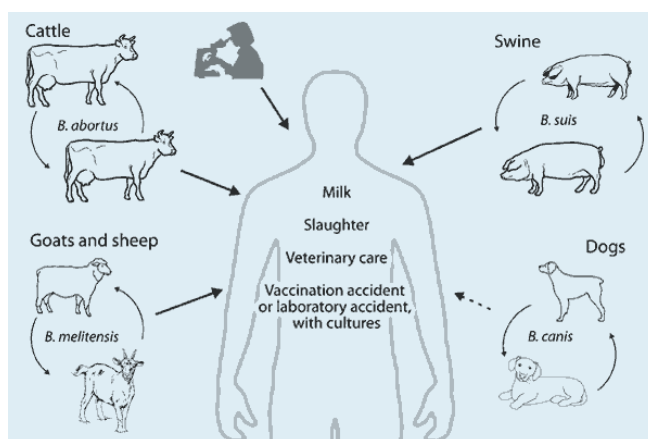
- People working with animals are at higher risk of infection. There are a number of ways we can get Brucella:
  - Eating or drinking raw, unpasteurised dairy products like milk and cheese
  - Direct contact with infected animal fluids (such as helping pull a calf!)
  - Breathing in contaminated dust
- Infection in people causes severe flu-like signs such as headaches, body pain, fever and night sweats
  - People can also develop a long-term infection with continuous joint pain and fevers
  - Pregnant women are at risk of abortion or premature birth

# Abattoirs: BRUCELLOSIS



## InfoPak

- Death is uncommon except in infected children
- Treatment
  - Treatment requires long courses of antibiotics and full recovery can take weeks or even months after treatment
- Better to prevent in the first place!
  - Cook meat properly
  - Only consume pasteurised dairy products
  - Wear protective clothing (gloves, masks!) when handling birthing products
  - Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching animals



**Reference:** Spickler, Anna Rovid. Brucellosis. May 2018.

<https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/brucellosis.pdf>

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