

Someone else stated that brucellosis only affects the reproductive organs -- not true. Here are a few citations on other problems: <http://www.vetinfo.com/dencyclopedia/debrucel.html> "In both female and male dogs there may be infection of spinal discs (diskospondylitis) which can cause back pain and rear leg weakness or even paralysis. Eye inflammation may be seen in either sex." (Encyclopedia of Veterinary Medicine)

http://www.ivis.org/advances/Infect_Dis_Carmichael/shin/ivis.pdf "Nonspecific signs in both sexes include lethargy, loss of libido, premature aging and generalized lymph node enlargement. B. canis has been isolated from field cases of diskospondylitis, a condition that also has been reproduced experimentally in SPF dogs. Recurrent uveitis has been occasionally reported in infected dogs after several weeks of infection." International Veterinary Information Service That last one, incidentally, ends with: PET DOGS - CHOICES DIFFICULT Isolate dogs. Spay or castrate + treatment. Treatment uncertain; chances greater for success in early infections. Follow-up serology for 3 months post-treatment. Euthanasia should be considered: Uncertainty of treatment; cost great; disappointment common.

===== The fact that I have known two people personally *in my state* who have had their lives and breeding programs devastated by this disease really brings it home to me. It is just not something I would fool around with at all, considering the consequences. If I chose to keep and treat a dog who had brucellosis, I wouldn't expose him or any of my other dogs to the public. Just too great a risk. Like Betsy, I won't let fear of it ruin my life, but I also take brucellosis extremely seriously. What concerns me most about it, though, is the number of breeders who do not even test before breeding. Thirty years ago, that was unheard of. Now it seems we have become a bit casual about it, and that is just asking for trouble on a grand scale. Diseases like distemper, parvo, rabies, and brucellosis were once common among our dogs. We seldom see them any more because of a lot of diligence by our mentors, veterinarians and researchers. Just because they have largely succeeded does not mean the problems cannot come back if we get careless. Not vaccinating and not testing for communicable diseases just because we've never known anyone who had to deal with them is not only unethical, but in the words of my eloquent husband, "stupid." And I hope I am preaching to the choir here!