

Post-Deployment Health Screening for Canines Deployed to Haiti February 2010

As outlined in the document ‘**CANINE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR HAITI – Jan 2010**’ potential diseases working canines may have been exposed to are vector-borne (tick, fly, mosquito), food/soil/water contaminants, or contact with other affected animals. The working conditions in Haiti were extraordinary and risks of exposure are likely increased. The following tests and veterinary checks are recommended for all US&R canines deployed to Haiti.

7-10 Days Post Deployment

1. Complete Blood Count (CBC) – and ask lab to *check specifically for ehrlichia*
2. Complete Chemistry Panel
3. Urinalysis – due to reports of suspect urinary tract infections; urine sample should be obtained sterilely and submitted for culture and sensitivity if cytology indicates
4. Fecal parasite screen
5. Leptospirosis Testing - not all serovars are covered by the current vaccine; this is endemic in Haiti, transmitted via contact with contaminated soil, food, water, bedding and other fomites. Most commonly by ingestion, but also by wound contamination. ***Both tests below are recommended.***
 - a. Leptospirosis Real Time PCR testing on urine
 - b. Leptospirosis antibody panel microagglutination titer (MAT) on blood
6. Wound Examination - any dogs that had any wounds or lacerations before or during deployment (no matter how small) should be examined for Screw Worm. Screw Worms have been eradicated in the U.S. and are reportable due to the impact on livestock if re-introduced in the United States. Screw worms will present as larva found in the wound bed. Any larva found in wounds on dogs returning from Haiti should be collected and reported to USDA/APHIS immediately. ***These larva, or grubs, may take several months to erupt so keep checking!***
7. Prophylactic de-worming even if negative fecal results - with praziquantel (Droncit®) and fenbendazole (Panacur®) performed regardless of fecal results. Parasites will shed intermittently from the feces and may not be found on a single screen. Due to the contaminated environment in Haiti and the stressful working conditions we recommend this prophylaxis.

30-40 Days Post Deployment

1. Complete Blood Count (CBC)
2. Complete Chemistry Panel
3. Tick Panel – to include ehrlichia
4. Urinalysis for any dog with a urinary tract infection or renal abnormalities on either chemistry panel
5. Fecal parasite screen for any dog with a positive parasite result on prior test