

Brazos County Health Department

A City-County Public Health District



News Release

May 3, 2010

For Immediate Release

Brucellosis Infection

Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. These bacteria are primarily passed among animals, and can cause disease in humans. Various *Brucella* species affect sheep, goats, cattle, deer, elk, wild hogs, dogs and several other animals. People may become infected by coming in contact with animals and animal products that are contaminated with these bacteria.

Symptoms of brucellosis are similar to flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pains and physical weakness. If you are experiencing these symptoms, and have recently been hunting or consumed wild game, you are advised to seek advice from your primary care provider.

Although brucellosis is not very common, the Brazos Valley has been notified of one confirmed case of brucellosis. The Brazos County Health Department would like to remind the community, that contamination of skin wounds may be a problem for persons working with wild game or by accidentally ingesting the bacteria after consuming under-cooked deer, wild hog or elk that they have killed. Hunters are advised to wear rubber gloves and to practice proper hand hygiene when handling the viscera of animals. Gloves should be burned or buried after use.

Currently, although there is no vaccine against this disease, it is treatable with antibiotics which are used for several weeks or months, depending on severity.

(News media: for more information contact Sara Mendez, PIO, at (979) 361-4440.)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.