

# BRUCELLA MELITENSIS

## SPECIES AFFECTED

Goats

## DESCRIPTION

Sheep and goat brucellosis, caused by the zoonotic bacterium *Brucella melitensis*, is an economically important cause of abortion in small ruminants. This infection causes significant losses from decreased productivity and lost trade in much of the developing world. *B. melitensis* is considered to be a re-emerging pathogen in the Middle East. It has been eradicated from some nations, but the cost of surveillance to remain *B. melitensis*-free is significant. *B. melitensis* is also an important human pathogen. In humans, brucellosis is a serious, debilitating and sometimes chronic disease that can affect a variety of organs. Most cases are the result of occupational exposure to infected animals, but infections can also occur from ingesting contaminated dairy products. In addition, *B. melitensis* could be used in a bioterrorist attack.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

*Brucella melitensis* is a mandatory reportable disease in Oregon.