

Post-deployment health screening for dogs deployed to Haiti

As outlined in the document ‘**CANINE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR HAITI – Jan 2010**’ potential diseases working K-9’s 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 are recommended for all US&R K-9’s deployed to Haiti.

7-10 days post deployment

1. Complete Blood Count (CBC)
2. Complete Chemistry Panel
3. Urinalysis – due to reports of K-9’s having possible urinary tract infections. Any dog with a suspect or confirmed UTI should have urine sample obtained sterilely and a culture and sensitivity performed.
4. Fecal parasite screen
5. Leptospirosis PCR on urine – this disease is endemic to Haiti and is transmitted via contact with contaminated soil, food, water, bedding and other fomites. Most commonly by ingestion, but also by wound contamination. Though many strains exist and vaccination is not protective against all strains, this is especially important for any non-vaccinated dogs.
6. Leptospirosis titer on blood or urine
7. 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 a 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.
8. Prophylactic deworming - with praziquantel (Droncit®) 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 are recommending prophylaxis for all deployed dogs.

30-40 days post deployment

9. Complete Blood Count
10. Complete Chemistry Panel
11. Urinalysis - for any dogs with urinary tract infections or renal abnormalities on either chemistry panel
12. Fecal for any dogs with parasites identified on previous fecal exam