Take-home messages

- *Brucella* spp is an uncommon class 3 pathogen isolated in laboratories serving non-endemic areas.
- Laboratory staff are unfamiliar with the phenotypic characteristics of *Brucella* spp, and need periodic education about uncommon hazardous organisms.
- All Gram-negative or Gram-variable bacilli or coccobacilli should be processed in a class 2 biosafety cabinet pending definitive identification.
- Exposed staff members should be assessed by the occupational health department, offered antibiotic prophylaxis and monitored with serology.

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank colleagues at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency and the Brucella Reference Laboratory for their assistance with the four cases.

Competing interests: None.

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Retraction

The following paper, published Online First on 9 October 2008 was later withdrawn because of duplicate publication. ''Tracking the footprints of the rabies virus: are we any closer to decoding this elusive virus?'' Mahadevan A, Suja MS, Madhusudana SN, *et al*.

J Clin Pathol 2010;**63**:92. doi:10.1136/jcp.2006.045682retr