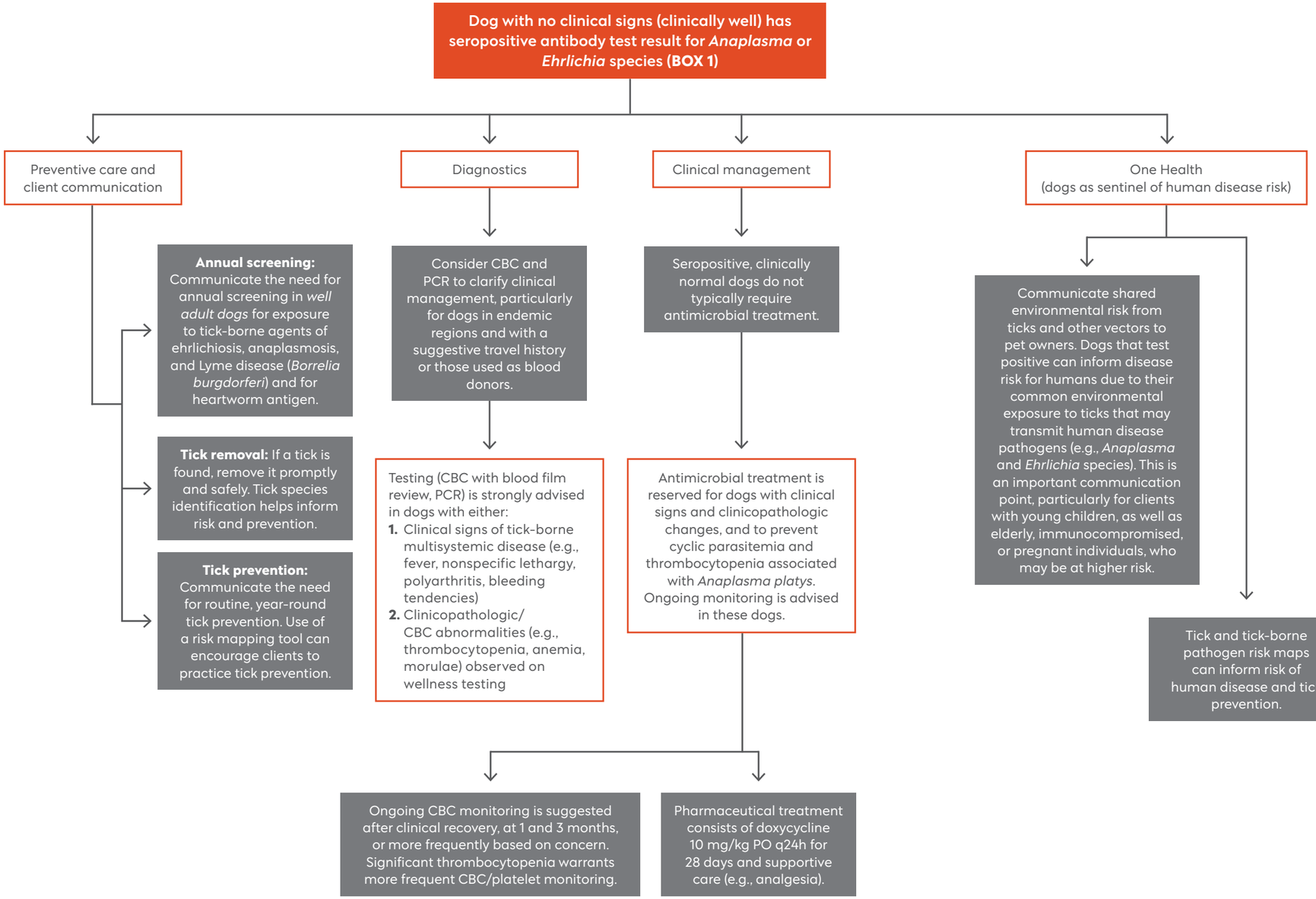


BOX 1
Interpretation of Positive Serologic Test Results

A positive serologic result indicates the presence of antibodies against *Anaplasma* or *Ehrlichia* species, which may reflect acute, chronic, or resolved (historical) infection. Additional diagnostics (e.g., CBC, blood film review, PCR testing) may be indicated to guide management of positive dogs, particularly those with *Anaplasma platys* infection, as these dogs may not show overt clinical signs.

Clinical and CBC monitoring can be used along with PCR testing to differentiate acute, chronic, and resolved infection. In the acute phase of infection, when dogs are usually clinically ill, serology is often negative. A PCR test and CBC with blood film evaluation (with consideration of clinical pathologist review) to assess for infection (e.g., thrombocytopenia, morula) should be performed to detect early, active infection. Rapid resolution of clinical signs with doxycycline (within 24–48 hours) may be used to assist with clinical diagnosis.

Antibodies are not eliminated immediately after infection, and seropositivity may persist for months to years in some dogs. This can be due to slow elimination of antibodies (individual variation) or ongoing infection. Dogs with persistent antibody tests, clinical signs, and/or CBC abnormalities that do not respond to management may have another underlying disease (e.g., babesiosis), or coinfection, as a cause of (or contributor to) clinical signs. Alternatively, compliance concerns (e.g., incorrect medication, dosing, or duration) or immunosuppression may be the cause.