RESOLUTION NUMBER:  28, 47, 60 and 63 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER:  MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

DATE:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The livestock industry of the United States has much to offer other countries through the exportation of our livestock genetics. To be competitive with other livestock exporting countries, exporters in the United States need to keep preparation costs as low as possible and the tuberculosis test, in particular, requires two visits by a veterinarian to conduct the test.

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91, relating to the inspection and handling of livestock for exportation requires certain testing to be eligible for exportation.

Part 91.5 relating to cattle exportation was amended on August 22, 2007 to allow the exportation of cattle without the need for a tuberculosis or brucellosis test unless required by the importing country.

Part 91.6 still requires a tuberculosis and brucellosis test even if not required by the importing country. Part 91.9 requires a brucellosis test for swine even if not required by the importing country.

Most states in the United States are free of both brucellosis and tuberculosis so it should not be a major risk for an importing country. If the importing country believes there is some risk for the two diseases, they can require the tests in their import protocols.

RESOLUTION:
The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) proposes that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) publish a proposed rule eliminating the requirement for the brucellosis and tuberculosis test for goats intended for exportation, and the brucellosis test for breeding swine intended for exportation unless required by the importing country.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees with the recommended resolution and will initiate the necessary regulatory process to amend Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 91.6 (goats) and part 91.9 (swine), to remove the testing requirements for tuberculosis and brucellosis of goats intended for export and brucellosis of swine intended for export, unless such testing is required by the importing country.