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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 and 45 Combined**

**APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES  
COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC AND VECTOR BORNE  
DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Equine Infectious Anemia and Equine Piroplasmosis  
Testing of Racing Quarter Horses**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Racing Quarter Horses have been identified as a high-risk population of horses which pose a significant risk to the health of the national equine population. Since 2009, there have been 268 racing Quarter Horses confirmed positive for equine piroplasmosis (EP), with 56 of the 268 confirmed since October of 2015. The 56 positive horses were located all across the country including in the states of Arkansas (2), Arizona (3), California (1), Illinois (1), New Mexico (1), North Carolina (1), Tennessee (19), Texas (10) and Wyoming (14). Additionally, since 2012, at least 59 racing Quarter Horses have been confirmed positive for equine infectious anemia in states of California (39), Texas (5), Washington (10), Oregon (4), and Oklahoma (1). Epidemiologic investigations into these cases have indicated iatrogenic transmission of disease through high risk practices of trainers and owners. The failure to promptly identify positive animals poses a significant risk to the United States (US) equine population as the retired racing Quarter Horses travel across the US to be used as pleasure horses, roping or rodeo horses, barrel horses, show horses or ranch horses. Of concern regarding equine piroplasmosis, the US free status is at risk if identification and control measures are not implemented. Although it is acknowledged that imposing testing requirements on racing Quarter Horses prior to entry into a racing venue will impose an increased owner expense, the threat of the loss of US free status for EP, and the threat of allowing permanent establishment of a new disease into the US horse industry poses an even greater economic risk to the US equine industries.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges state animal health officials and Quarter Horse racing jurisdictions to impose equine infectious anemia (EIA) and equine piroplasmosis (EP) testing requirements for Quarter Horses entering a racing venue. Additionally, USAHA urges the American Quarter Horse Association to encourage the EIA and EP testing of racing Quarter Horses and assist in the education of the racing Quarter Horse owners and trainers as to the risks of the diseases. Lastly, the USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to compile national epidemiologic EIA and EP data for the high-risk group of horses and provide outreach information to states and industry regarding this issue.