



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:

Increased Fiscal Year 2018 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) has demonstrated through the strategic implementation of cooperative oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs targeting wildlife to be cost-effective, while continuing to reduce rabies exposure and transmission among wildlife, livestock, pets and people. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); the most effective strategy to implement large scale rabies control efforts is at the source in animal (i.e., vector) populations. ORV programs are designed to immunize target wildlife species by increasing the percentage of rabies-immune animals within vaccination zones. Creating a population of immune animals results in the reduction of rabies cases, prevention of viral spread, and eventual rabies elimination.

In early 2016, WS with federal, state, academic, and international experts developed a comprehensive strategy to implement Phase 2, elimination of raccoon rabies variant in the Eastern United States. WS also developed and initiated an Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Program with state cooperation throughout the Northeast, Atlantic, and adjacent Mid-West and Southern States to enhance early detection of rabies cases or translocation of animals with rabies. This will allow for rapid contingency plans to eliminate rabies from re-infected areas and minimize the threat of rabies spread to newly infected areas.

Successful programs in Texas continue towards rabies elimination in gray foxes, as well as ongoing studies on rabies control methodology in skunks and maintaining a protective immune barrier along the Mexican border to keep the United States free of coyote (canine) rabies and **prevent having gray fox rabies elimination efforts undermined by entry of rabid foxes into Texas from Mexico**. The requested funding will allow USDA to:

- Fully implement the enhanced rabies surveillance program.
- Implement contingency action in response to rabid animals in sensitive areas.

- Continue Phase 1 as outlined in the US National Plan for Wildlife Rabies Management that maintains existing operational programs (immune zones) to control rabies in wildlife populations.
- Continue the investigation of novel and US-licensed vaccines and baits.
- Continue studies related to rabies control in skunks.
- Initiate Phase 2 of the national plan to eliminate raccoon rabies variant in the U.S.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 115th Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$30 million for program management and contingency actions at the state level in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services National Rabies Management Program.