



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: PREPARATION OF THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE TO BETTER PERFORM ACCREDITED TASKS, INCLUDING DETECTION OF AND RESPONSE TO ANIMAL DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As stated in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Final Rule announced in the Federal Register Volume 74, December 9, 2009: "We are amending the regulations regarding the National Veterinary Accreditation Program to establish two accreditation categories in place of the former single category, to add requirements for supplemental training and renewal of accreditation, and to offer program certifications. We are making these changes in order to support the Agency's animal health safeguarding initiatives, to involve accredited veterinarians in integrated surveillance activities, and to make the provisions governing our National Veterinary Accreditation Program more uniform and consistent. These changes will increase the level of training and skill of accredited veterinarians in the areas of disease prevention and preparedness for animal health emergencies in the United States." These changes include continuing education requirements for both of the new categories.

Maintaining an adequate number of trained accredited veterinarians is vital to this nation's animal health infrastructure. Accreditation is a national program and therefore requires uniformity. Accreditation training needs to be recognized as acceptable content for continuing education in the maintenance of state licenses.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the State Licensing Boards to work closely together to assure the content of accreditation material is uniformly presented across all states and that it be approved as continuing educational material toward meeting each state's veterinary license requirements.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the United States Animal Health Association's resolution encouraging the standardization of information that the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) presents to veterinarians who seek accreditation.

The fundamental components of the revised NVAP are consistency and standardized information on the role of, and expertise and awareness needed by, accredited veterinarians. Standardization begins with the core modules of the Initial Accreditation Training presented to

veterinary students at the 28 U.S. veterinary schools. The training is also mandatory for all veterinarians seeking accreditation after July 1, 2011. This consistent core knowledge is reinforced through common materials developed for presentation at core orientations and in the information modules developed for continuing education credits that are required for all accredited veterinarians every 3 years.

During the past year, VS was informed that some States have already authorized continuing education credits for the veterinary services supplemental training courses provided as part of the curriculum of several major veterinary conferences.

VS would be pleased if each State veterinary medical board approved the NVAP continuing education modules as creditable toward its continuing education requirements. However, we cannot ensure nationwide use because each State has its own requirements for continuing education courses.