



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 - APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS**

**SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS PROOF OF VACCINATION**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

While the practice of vaccinating for brucellosis has declined in much of the United States, many western States, especially those in or around the Greater Yellowstone Area still utilize vaccination as a principle component of their brucellosis mitigation programs. In some States, vaccination requirements are part of importation and change of ownership and movement regulations. Unfortunately, States' regulations differ on what is considered proof of vaccination, with some requiring a legible tattoo even in animals with a vaccination tag, thereby creating issues for interstate commerce.

Traditionally, proof (and time) of vaccination helped differentiate a brucellosis infected reactor from an animal vaccinated with strain 19. Now that RB51 is the only approved vaccine for cattle and bison, proof of vaccination is only necessary for compliance reasons. In these cases, lack of proof can be remedied with re-vaccination without risk of causing test interpretation problems. Data supports that a second dose of vaccine will result in enhanced protection.

It is well documented that tattoos are often not permanent and are difficult to read on older cattle. Further, correct application of National Uniform Eartagging System or radio frequency identification individual official tags often allows these tags to have greater longevity than the tattoo and may be used as proof of vaccination if the orange color is used.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges all states to uniformly recognize a vaccination tattoo or an official brucellosis vaccination identification device as proof of brucellosis vaccination for the purposes of movement or importation. USAHA further urges the United States Department of Agriculture to modify brucellosis regulations to require a vaccination tattoo only if an official brucellosis vaccination identification device is not applied during brucellosis vaccination.



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## **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The proposed tuberculosis and brucellosis rule and the accompanying program standards to be published this year contain a protocol for identifying brucellosis vaccinates. When published, all stakeholders will have a chance to formally comment on the brucellosis protocol. In the meantime, APHIS will review current brucellosis vaccination tattoo protocols and official brucellosis vaccinate identification requirements and work with National Assembly of Animal Health Officials to address current concerns and meet program and traceability requirements.