



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FISCAL YEAR 2015 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Rabies control continues to be the embodiment of a One Health initiative and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization now believes that terrestrial rabies and foot-and-mouth disease should be the next global diseases targeted for eradication. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, oral rabies vaccine (ORV) program continues to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock, and humans. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that the best place to address rabies control is at the animal source. Regular distribution of ORV to immunize target wildlife species increases the percentage of rabies immune animals in ORV baiting zones. Creating a reservoir population of immune animals results in a decrease in rabies cases and prevents the spread of rabies to new areas. Rabies programs in the United States that have integrated ORV with traditional public and animal health measures have successfully eliminated the transmission of the canine variant of rabies in south Texas coyote populations, halted the westward expansion of raccoon rabies variant at the Appalachian Mountains, and resulted in one reported non-reservoir case of gray fox rabies variant in Texas since May of 2009 and eliminated raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York in 2011. Today, federal, state and local sponsored and funded ORV programs continue to monitor areas where rabies variants have been eliminated while addressing new challenges. The funding level requested would allow the USDA to maintain ongoing logistical support and wildlife rabies case surveillance necessary for the program, while maintaining existing operational programs to control rabies in target wildlife populations and increased funding will allow new investigation into control of skunk rabies. Even in the recent dire economic environment, new states and counties have expressed interest in ORV projects.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the 113th Congress to appropriate at least \$28 million in the FY2015 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Oral Rabies Vaccine Program.



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

December 11, 2013

Office of the
Administrator

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Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 2013, recognizing the importance and strategic value that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has placed on controlling rabies at the animal source, supporting the continued coordination by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Association (APHIS), Wildlife Services of wildlife rabies management in the United States and acknowledges the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution 19: "Increase FY 2015 Funding for the APHIS, WS' Oral Rabies Vaccination Program."

In FY 2013 APHIS, WS committed \$23.8 million in federally appropriated funds toward surveillance, control and research targeting raccoon rabies in the eastern U.S., and canine and gray fox rabies in the southwestern U.S. (primarily Texas). The FY 2013 level represents \$862,000 reduction from the prior FY as a result of sequestration. In FY 2014, APHIS is currently operating under a continuing resolution but is planning levels similar to FY 2013 levels, contingent on an approved federal budget. WS plans to continue to implement the most efficient and effective program practical within the reduced funding level that began in FY 2013 as a result of sequestration.

In FY 2013 APHIS, WS continued collaborative oral rabies vaccine safety and immunogenicity field trials in the U.S. While we wait the final scientific results from these field trials with ONRAB® (a recombinant human adenovirus-vectored rabies glycoprotein vaccine in the ultralite bait, Artemis Technologies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), WS continues to rely on Raboral V-RG® (Merial -- a Sanofi Company, Athens, Georgia) for operational rabies control activities. If the results of a comprehensive analysis from field research continue to show favorable outcomes, a decision will be made for the potential role for ONRAB to enhance our ability to more aggressively to conduct campaigns toward the elimination of raccoon rabies from the U.S.

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford

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We appreciate input by the USAHA and greatly value the organization's continued support of our collaborative efforts in "One Health" to protect U.S. agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Committees. Thank you again for providing us your resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Clay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator