



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: STATE OR REGIONAL BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS CLASSIFICATION FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established disease classification systems for program diseases that help determine the risk of those diseases within States or regions. Brucellosis classifications cover cattle, bison, and swine. Tuberculosis (TB) classification covers cattle, bison, and captive cervids. Goats and sheep are susceptible to both brucellosis and TB but the current disease classification system does not address these species. These diseases rarely occur in sheep or goats in the United States. USDA currently lists the status of the United States as “free” of *B. melitensis* for diseases reportable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Attempts to determine the prevalence of brucellosis and TB in U.S. goats and sheep identified two reports of disease. In 1999, a south Texas herd of goats and one sheep were diagnosed with *Brucella melitensis* (*B. melitensis*). Tuberculosis was diagnosed in 1991 and 1992 in two pygmy goats housed in zoos.

Despite the lack of any evidence of brucellosis or TB in dairy sheep or goats, the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) was modified in 1997 to require annual whole herd brucellosis and TB tests. A resolution from the United States Animal Health Association in 1998, requested a delay in the 1999 implementation of these requirements. A policy letter from the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners the same year recommended that no test requirements be placed on sheep or goats. The end result of these concerns was the addition of the “random statistical herd sampling” option to the PMO in 2001, which sets a minimum sample size based on herd or flock size.

Animal health rules from the 2011 PMO exempt cattle and bison from any testing requirements if they are from an area which has a certified brucellosis-free status and a modified accredited advanced TB or greater status. Since these classifications do not include sheep and goats the PMO testing requirements for these species remain in effect.

Establishing a brucellosis and tuberculosis classification for sheep and goats would allow State Veterinarians and USDA Veterinarians in Charge to develop appropriate brucellosis



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and TB surveillance and testing requirements for sheep and goats while still protecting public health.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to conduct a risk analysis pertaining to brucellosis and tuberculosis (TB) in sheep and goats and to coordinate with the Food and Drug Administration to determine the need for testing for TB and brucellosis in these species.

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. APHIS will reach out to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by April 2014 to determine whether a risk assessment would be sufficient to support a change in the tuberculosis and brucellosis testing requirements for sheep and goat dairies. If so, APHIS will look into whether there is adequate data to conduct a risk assessment and, if not, what data would need to be collected and the feasibility of collecting the required data.