

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 23 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO HARMONIZE INTERNATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING METHODS OF DETECTING RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD TO REDUCE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Global trade of meat and poultry products is essential to financial health of the livestock and poultry producers in the United States (US). Use of veterinary drugs when necessary is essential to treat and control disease. In order to maintain the safety of the food supply when these drugs are used, a pre-slaughter withdrawal period is established by the US Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow drugs to clear from the edible tissues to a level not exceeding the tolerance level. The FDA established withdrawal periods, based on sound science, sometimes differ substantially from those necessary to meet global (or specific country) maximum residue limits. These differences are based on different interpretations of residue risk with no real difference in food safety. This can result in an American farmer using an FDA approved veterinary drug according to label sending livestock to market with potentially detectable residues that would be violative in certain markets. A violation or repeated violations may lead to disruption of trade with that market. FDA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) along with representatives of the Animal Health Institute are in on-going negotiations with the applicable non-government organizations (NGOs), including International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF), to harmonize the processes and reduce this technical barrier to trade.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of activities of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) related to negotiations to harmonize the requirements surrounding residues of veterinary drugs in food based on sound science and risk analysis.

**RESPONSES:**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration,  
Center for Veterinary Medicine**

[FDA-CVM] has shared Resolution 1 (Promoting the Use of Standardized Bacterial Fingerprinting Strategies) and Resolution 23 (Continued Support for the Negotiations to Harmonize International Rules and Regulations Governing Methods of Detecting Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food to Reduce Veterinary Drugs in Food to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade) with our Office of Research and our representatives to Codex.