



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 25      **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Increased Fiscal Year 2016 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Rabies programs in the United States that have integrated oral rabies vaccine (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 in 2011 eliminated raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York. Successful contingency programs have moved toward Texas gray fox rabies elimination. 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 United States Department of Agriculture (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 continue investigation into the control of skunk rabies. Additional funding is needed to address outbreaks and provide emergency response. The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, ORV program continues to reduce transmission of rabies to wildlife, livestock, domestic pets 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. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization believes that terrestrial rabies and foot-and-mouth disease should be the next global disease targets for eradication.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association requests the Congress to appropriate \$28 million for program management and contingency actions at the state level in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Oral Rabies Vaccine Program.