



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2012 Resolution

116th Annual Meeting

October 18-24, 2012 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:

INCREASED FISCAL YEAR 2014 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wildlife rabies is a serious public health concern. Globally, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) now estimates that 70,000 people worldwide die each year from rabies. ProMED (September 28, 2011) states that rabies is one of the world's most lethal zoonotic diseases, killing more people than severe acute respiratory syndrome, H5N1 influenza, and dengue fever combined. Domestically, wildlife rabies is still responsible for 92% of all reported rabies cases in the United States (Blanton, et al. JAVMA, 2012). The use of licensed oral rabies vaccine (ORV) has been effective in controlling rabies in certain terrestrial wildlife reservoir species since the early 1990's. Rabies control continues to be the embodiment of a One Health initiative and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization now believes that 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, ORV program is designed to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock, and humans. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with 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 no reported cases of gray fox rabies variant cases in Texas since May of 2009. Today, federal and state sponsored 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.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 114th Congress continue to support level funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program. However, consideration for additional funding in FY 2014 may be warranted to cover increased costs associated with operational programs that are successfully controlling wildlife rabies in 14 States and emergence of rabies in new locations or species.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

November 30, 2012

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20250

Dr. David L. Meeker
President
U.S. Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Meeker:

Thank you for your November 19, 2012, letter expressing interest and support of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) coordination of wildlife rabies management and the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution 27: "Support level rabies funding in FY 2013 and consideration for additional rabies funding in FY2014...to maintain an effective Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program."

In FY 2012, 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). In FY 2013, WS plans to continue to implement the most effective program practical within FY 2013 funding levels once the budget process is completed and the allocation for rabies management is known.

Wildlife Services recognizes among its many priorities the need for new or improved oral rabies vaccines and baits to more aggressively achieve rabies management goals. In September 2011 WS and cooperators completed the first field trial to test ONRAB (Artemis Industries, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), a human adenovirus5-rabies recombinant vaccine. This oral vaccine has been successfully used by international cooperators in Canada. Encouraging results including nearly 50 percent of the raccoons sampled after ONRAB distribution with antibodies against rabies, lead to expanding field testing of this vaccine in FY 2012 in Ohio, and along the Quebec border in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as replicating the 2011 trial conducted in West Virginia. Results of these expanded trials are being analyzed and will serve to help chart the future direction of wildlife rabies management activities in the United States.

We greatly value the USAHA's continued interest and support of our efforts to protect animal and human health from rabies. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Public Health and Rabies Committee. Thank you again for providing us your resolution.

Sincerely,

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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