

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION—2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIOSAFETY
LABORATORIES

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

High containment biosafety level (BSL)-3, BSL-3 Ag, and BSL-4 laboratory space is vital to our ability for early detection and response to any potential emerging and foreign animal disease or bioterrorist event.

Laboratories must be capable of handling disease agents in a manner that allows the safe handling of diagnostic materials and the ability to conduct research to detect and prevent emerging and exotic infectious agents.

These same laboratories assist livestock producers, veterinarians, pet owners, wildlife managers and public health professionals in every state on a daily basis by providing surveillance and diagnostic services for these diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports continuing operation of existing, and construction of new, high-containment biosafety laboratories. Furthermore, USAHA recommends funding and coordination by federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for maintaining regulatory oversight of these laboratories.