



## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

### Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: CANADIAN EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS IMPORT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Recently, there has been increased concern over the differences in the United States and Canadian import test requirements for equine piroplasmosis (EP). For importation, Canada requires a negative EP immunofluorescent antibody test or, where applicable, an alternate test acceptable to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Horses imported into Canada from other countries may move into the United States after spending at least 60 days in Canada with no further EP testing. This effectively allows horses from EP-endemic countries to enter the United States without fulfilling the United States requirement of a negative EP competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) test.

In recent testing of EP-positive horses in the United States, the cELISA has been more sensitive than the IFA in detecting sero-positive animals.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export to meet with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to discuss equine piroplasmosis (EP) import testing and the maintenance of EP freedom in North America. This meeting should be dedicated exclusively to the topic of EP and, if necessary, be facilitated by USDA traveling to Canada.

#### **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes that standardizing equine piroplasmosis testing methods between the United States and Canada could be beneficial to both countries. VS is requesting a technical meeting with the Canadian Food Inspection Service to discuss the sensitivity of assays used in each country for detecting seropositive horses and how import testing might be further harmonized.

#### **FINAL RESPONSE**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

USDA APHIS VS recognizes that standardizing equine piroplasmosis (EP) testing methods between the United States and Canada could be beneficial to both countries. VS has scheduled a technical meeting with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on September 15, 2011. Meeting participants will discuss the sensitivity of assays used in each country for detecting seropositive horses and how import testing might be further harmonized to achieve the maintenance of EP freedom in North America.