

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION *RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE
PEW COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL FARM ANIMAL
PRODUCTION*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production (PCIFAP) published a report on April 29, 2008, *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America*, on the impacts of animal agriculture in the United States. In June 2008, the Northeast United States Animal Health Association (NEUSAHA) passed a resolution calling for the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) to request that PCIFAP include the technical reports it had commissioned but not received at the time of publication and that PCIFAP re-evaluate its findings based on said reports. Said resolution was not approved by the membership at the 2008 USAHA annual meeting.

According to the PCIFAP website, <http://www.ncifap.org/about/>, the group 'was formed to conduct a comprehensive, fact-based and balanced examination of key aspects of the farm animal industry.' In a letter to the editor of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association published on October 15, 2008, Robert P. Martin, Executive Director of PCIFAP states, "The Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production (PCIFAP) was a two-year study funded by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to recommend solutions to the problems created by concentrated animal feeding operations in the areas of public health, the environment, animal welfare, and rural communities." Mr. Martin's comment appears contradictory to the notion that the group was convened to 'conduct a comprehensive, fact-based, and balanced examination' of the situation when he infers that there was a predetermined agenda to 'recommend solutions to the problems'.

In the past year, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has done a thorough and excellent job at reviewing each of PCIFAP's recommendations in its *Response to the Final Report of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production* released in August 2009; <http://www.avma.org/advocacy/PEWresponse/>.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the findings of the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) *Response to the Final Report of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production* released in August 2009.