

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 49      **APPROVED**  
**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS  
**SUBJECT MATTER:** ELEPHANT TUBERCULOSIS GUIDELINES

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The emergence of tuberculosis (TB) in elephants in 1996 prompted the formation of an advisory panel to draft guidelines for the control of TB in elephants. Since that time various modifications of the guidelines have been drafted. The proposed 2008 guidelines incorporate several changes including the addition of serological testing using Chembio's Elephant TB Stat-Pak<sup>®</sup> Assay and additional options for culturing positive elephants.

Proposed guidelines would require annual testing by the triple culture method (three trunk wash samples) and a single sample of serum collected for analysis by the Elephant TB Stat-Pak<sup>®</sup> Assay. The Elephant TB Stat-Pak<sup>®</sup> Assay was approved and licensed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) in 2007. The proposed guidelines require that blood from Elephant TB Stat-Pak<sup>®</sup> Assay positive elephants be submitted to Chembio for confirmatory testing with the Multi-Antigen Print ImmunoAssay (MAPIA).

Guidelines for treatment and movement restrictions would be based on culture and serological results. The Committee on Tuberculosis established a Subcommittee at the 2007 USAHA Annual Meeting to review and comment on proposed guidelines.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care (AC) adopt and implement the Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants 2008 developed by the USAHA Committee on Tuberculosis.

## **RESPONSE:**

### **USDA, Animal Care**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care, is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the USAHA Resolution 49, addressing revision of the elephant tuberculosis guidelines in use as a reference guide since 1998. USAHA has approved the 2008 revisions and made the resolution that APHIS adopt and implement

the October 29, 2008, edition of the "Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants."

APHIS is adopting the guidelines. An implementation plan has been developed and we will begin testing according to the recommended guidelines in July 2009 after Animal Care personnel are trained in the use of the new test.

We thank USAHA for their review and guidance in this matter and look forward to using these new tools to maintain the health and well-being of our US elephant population.