



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2    APPROVED**

**SOURCE:        USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT MATTER:    Veterinary License Reciprocity In Emergencies**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Large-scale animal emergency disasters can occur during events such as hurricanes, floods, fires, and disease outbreaks. These events have often exhausted in-state resources requiring states to reach out to other states and national organizations to assist in animal emergency response and recovery efforts. The veterinary community has organized itself sufficiently in recent years to respond to such requests for assistance. A limiting factor in fulfilling requests for assistance is the lack of a standardized means of addressing reciprocal licensure during emergencies. Inconsistencies in states' licensing board processes as well as refusal of some boards to recognize out-of-state licenses during emergencies has led to delays in providing assistance when critically needed.

Nationally, there are two professional and legal means for addressing this issue. First, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a congressionally ratified mutual aid compact that legally establishes a national system to facilitate the deployment of resources across state lines during an emergency or disaster. To date, all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands are EMAC members. EMAC is state law; therefore, in most cases, a licensing board does not supersede state law. The state emergency management agencies (EMAs) within the EMAC Member States are responsible for the implementation of EMAC. Second, request of licensed veterinary professionals via non-EMAC processes such as Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) between state emergency management and recognized entities or organizations allows for specific requirements for deployment to be outlined in advance which streamlines the license reciprocity processes.

These means are both effective and protective due to the national veterinary licensure examination and continuing education requirements in place to ensure continuity and standardization of the practice of veterinary medicine in the United States.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the American Association of Veterinary State Boards to develop and distribute to Veterinary State Boards a position statement in support of reciprocal veterinary medical licensure as outlined under state emergency management laws, regulations, and guidelines.