

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, ANIMAL CARE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Animal welfare is recognized as a complex issue by governments, national and international bodies, academic institutions, and individuals throughout the world. Public awareness and increased emphasis on animal welfare has given the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) additional responsibilities. Those responsibilities have been delegated to the Animal Care (AC) unit, the unit within USDA-APHIS responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and regulations and the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and regulations. To respond to the additional responsibilities, the AC unit was authorized to establish a Center for Animal Welfare to provide the critical leadership necessary to effectively respond to animal welfare issues. The focus of the newly established unit will support the current mission of AC including the AWA and HPA, while developing a national resource for the collaboration on international animal welfare issues and providing scientific and technical expertise.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to provide leadership, serve as a national resource for policy development and analysis, develop training, science, and technology on animal welfare topics, and be recognized as a collaborating center for the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and other international entities. USDA-APHIS, Animal Care (AC) should continue to enhance the well-being of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA).

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS

We appreciate USAHA sharing its views on the issues in question with our Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and assure you that we will take them under careful consideration. We look forward to further dialogue with your organization on these and other issues as we evaluate the health needs of animals in our country and move ahead with important animal health initiatives.

We value USAHA'S longstanding partnership with USDA, and look forward to continued collaboration advancing our mutual efforts to safeguard and promote U.S. animal health.