



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: Brucellosis Testing in Farmed Cervidae

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the last 50 years during the eradication of bovine brucellosis in cattle in the United States, only the elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) have been an impediment to the eradication. Whitetail deer, mule deer, and elk in the other 47 brucellosis free states have never been identified as being either a reservoir for the disease or a public health risk in regard to being infected with *Brucella abortus* or transmitting the agent. The elk in the GYA are not privately owned or controlled, and it is presently illegal to trap, possess, or transport these free-ranging elk privately. Therefore they cannot legally enter animal commerce channels and are not an issue in regard to interstate shipment of brucellosis-infected elk.

Currently, when shipping interstate, a negative *Brucella abortus* blood test must be performed which will then allow thirty days to transport the animal. Should a delay occur beyond the 30 days, the animal must be retested.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges state regulatory officials to extend the number of days to accept a negative brucellosis test of farmed cervidae from 30 days to 45 days when the herd of origin is located outside of a State's Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Areas. Furthermore, USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to incorporate this recommendation into rule as the agency develops the upcoming federal program for cervids.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

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

The requirement to test for brucellosis within 30 days of movement is a State requirement. Currently, there is no Federal requirement for brucellosis testing for the interstate movement of cervids. APHIS has developed a tuberculosis and brucellosis proposed rule and program standards to address ongoing disease risks, including current scientific perspectives on disease transmission and control. The proposed rule and program standards are in departmental clearance at this time. Once the clearance process is completed, the proposed rule and standards will be published in the Federal Register for public comment. We encourage stakeholders to submit their comments at that time.