

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 and 35 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES**
COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: **STERILE SCREWORM FLY PRODUCTION AND**
DISTRIBUTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Screwworm larvae have been identified annually in the United States (US) over the last 12 years. These larvae are found in imported horses or dogs and cats originating in screwworm infested countries of South America or the Caribbean. Most detections have been found in Florida soon after importation, requiring steps to be taken to prevent further dissemination.

During a screwworm training exercise, conducted with state, federal, and industry responders in Florida, response planning included provision of sterile flies for release in Florida that were produced by both the Pacora, Panama plant and the Tuxtla Gutierrez plant in Mexico. Flies from both plants were needed to contain and control this simulated Florida outbreak.

During the past year, the United States Department of Agriculture discontinued US funding for the screwworm production plant in Mexico. The loss of production capabilities at this plant has raised serious concerns as to the ability of the US to respond to screwworm incursions into the US. Production at the Panama facility is needed to maintain the barrier zone in the Panama area to prevent normal migration of flies from the south and reestablishment of natural populations in Central America and Mexico.

It is critically important that plans be in place to meet the needs of state and federal responders in the event of a screwworm outbreak in the US.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture to have in place written emergency response plans to be shared with state cooperators for producing and distributing adequate sterile flies in the event of the reemergence of screwworm in the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is currently writing a plan that will describe the production and distribution of sterile New World screwworm (NWS) flies to

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be used in the response to a U.S. outbreak of NWS. Up to 40 million sterile NWS pupae would be produced each week at the Pacora, Panama facility and flown to the United States for dispersal as adult flies throughout the outbreak area. This would be enough flies to cover an infested area of up to 3,000 square miles. A draft of the plan will be shared with State cooperators for review and input by July 1, 2013.