



# 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:** 15      **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Development of Equine Infectious Anemia Working Group

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) has historically been controlled in the United States by the individual states with support of their equine industries. States have instituted regulations to require testing for entry, movement and/or co-mingling, and quarantine of test-positive equids. Annually, approximately 2 million equid samples are tested for EIA, and over the last three years 0.01 percent of the samples were reported as positive. The true prevalence of the infection is not known as there is a significant untested population and in general the only tested animals are those moving interstate or otherwise in accordance with state laws. In recent years, many of the reported cases have been from states with historically low numbers of cases, and a substantial proportion of those positives were in equids not previously tested for EIA; specifically a higher risk population of unsanctioned racing Quarter Horses.

Changes to the federal Equine Infectious Anemia Control program are needed, as the traditional methods have reached a plateau for disease detection. Additionally, recently identified deficiencies in the federal EIA program include, but are not limited to, lack of laboratory oversight, lack of standardization for private practitioners requesting official tests, lack of uniformity in state procedures for managing EIA positive horses, and lack of uniformity in surveillance testing for EIA. Addressing the identified issues is important to the protection of equine health in the United States. Stakeholder and animal health official input is necessary to explore regulatory and non-regulatory options for EIA disease control.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to convene a working group to discuss and develop recommendations for advancing Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) disease control and the publication of a proposed EIA rule. The USAHA recommends the EIA working group include state animal health officials, academia (EIA subject matter experts), national and private laboratory representatives, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians representatives, and industry stakeholders.

### **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The United States 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 collaborate with stakeholders in the establishment of an Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) discussion group.

The development of a successful strategy for EIA will require support and consensus among a wide group of internal and external stakeholders. Thus, VS plans to convene a discussion group to examine current strategies and regulations for the nationwide control of EIA. The discussion group will be composed of State/Tribal, Federal, and industry representatives, including the American Horse Council, American Association of Equine Practitioners, other equine industry representatives, and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials. The discussion group will convene in early 2015 and meet biweekly by conference call. A summary document is expected in summer 2015.