

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

**RESOLUTION:** 30 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PUBLIC HEALTH CONTINUING EDUCATION MODULE FOR VETERINARY ACCREDITATION

**DATES:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the medical professions, veterinary medicine is unique in that the veterinary oath contains a reference to promoting public health. With increased concern about emerging zoonotic diseases, there is a critical need to promote public health education. In the one medicine concept, veterinarians play a vital role in protecting and promoting public health, and their professional education provides them with a unique skill set to address many emerging issues. Public health education should be part of work force development to meet the needs of society. Additionally, by providing this information, practitioners will be better equipped to answer questions asked by their clients and their communities. Public health needs to be part of the accreditation process to maintain its relevance today and into the future.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to include a public health module in the veterinary accreditation program.

### RESPONSE:

#### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) supports the development of a public health module and in promoting public health education as part of the core training for the new veterinary accreditation program. The public health module we propose will provide a general knowledge of public health issues and an understanding of how to minimize the risk of zoonotic diseases for clients and veterinary staff. The module will provide basic information on a number of important zoonotic diseases and provide links to various public health resources. In addition, it will cover how to report a

zoonotic disease and prevention practices that veterinarians can share with clients, staff and colleagues. The importance of interaction and communication between veterinarians, public health specialists, and medical doctors will also be addressed.