



# 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:** 17      **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:**                      **COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**              **Proposed Scrapie Rule**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

While the Scrapie Eradication Program has been extremely successful in decreasing the prevalence of scrapie in the United States, eradication has not yet been achieved in sheep or goats. Improved traceability and surveillance are needed to detect the last remaining cases of scrapie, proving to our trading partners that the United States is scrapie-free thus adding approximately \$50 million in export value. Mandatory identification of sheep has allowed slaughter surveillance to be the key in reducing the prevalence of scrapie in sheep by 85 percent. Slaughter surveillance of goats has been problematic because currently only 50% of mature goats are officially identified at slaughter, making it challenging to conduct effective surveillance.

A draft proposed rule to amend 9 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 54 and 79 has been in clearance for six years. This proposed rule would address standards for official identification and traceability for goats as well as other gaps in the regulation. To succeed in the eradication of scrapie, it is imperative that this rule be promptly published for comment and finalized.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the Secretary of Agriculture to give publication of the scrapie proposed rule the priority necessary for it to be published and finalized in federal fiscal year 2015. This proposed rule, which provides for improved traceability for goats and addresses other gaps in the current regulation, is a critically important element needed to achieve scrapie eradication in the United States.