

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 49      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:**                      COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

**SUBJECT:**                      APPROVAL OF RECTAL BIOPSY AS AN OFFICIAL  
LIVE ANIMAL TEST FOR SCRAPIE.

**DATES:**                        RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Detection of scrapie in the live animal is an important component of the Scrapie Eradication Program. Biopsy of the third eyelid lymphoid tissue has proven to be beneficial but there are several limitations on its use. Some of the limitations are due to the distribution of the abnormal scrapie prion protein but more commonly it is due to lack of sufficient lymphoid follicles to make a diagnosis.

Studies evaluating the use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) have shown sensitivity and specificity roughly equivalent to the third eyelid test. There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time. Restraint of the animal is still required but is generally easier and is much less a factor for the person obtaining the sample than with third eyelid sampling.

With proper training and equipment RAMALT sampling is relatively easy for most people and should result in an increase in diagnostic samples. Producers may find this technique more acceptable as well.

### **Resolution:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) approve rectal biopsy (RAMALT) as an additional live animal test for scrapie.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health

Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has approved RAMALT as an additional live animal test for scrapie in VS Memorandum 557.16, "Approval of Rectal Biopsy Derived Lymphoid Tissue Testing for Scrapie," dated January 11, 2008.