RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3   APPROVED

**SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
                              MANAGEMENT**

SUBJECT MATTER: Resource Typing for Animal Emergency Response

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act guided the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reach an "understanding with non-federal officials" on standards for credentialing of personnel and typing of response resources. Maintenance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), as required under Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), included establishment of the National Integration Center (NIC) which has the responsibility for standards and credentialing.

Beginning in 2007 and meeting regularly for more than five years, the FEMA Animal Emergency Response Working Group (AERWG) produced volumes of collaborative work products which included descriptions, specifications, and training requirements for at least 25 critical individual animal emergency response (AER) positions and several AER teams. The group included animal/agriculture emergency managers and responders with experience in disasters across the United States along with other national resource typing experts. The entire body of AERWG work, much of which had been vetted nationally, was never published.

Various groups, including state animal health officials, have worked independently to create AER resource typing guidelines for disaster events. The Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA), a 13-state planning and coordination group formed in 2006, expanded the FEMA "508-1" list with detailed descriptions of 11-Type II through IV animal emergency response teams. Later, SAADRA and the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC), an organized alliance of national animal responders, modified some of the team specifications. In 2014, the National Association of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP), a national group of animal and agriculture emergency managers appointed by chief state animal health officials in every state, amicably discussed a plan with the NIC Coordinator to begin a project of revising and accepting typing standards for these critical resources.

It is understood that a full inventory of AER resources will likely remain a living document requiring periodic revision. An example of this is the discovery of the need for a Case Manager position that surfaced in a recent animal disease event. We need to move forward to adopt resource typing guidelines to improve our national response capabilities.

1

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Integration Center (NIC) to do the following:

- Publish and announce a temporary endorsement of the 11- typed animal emergency response (AER) teams created by the Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance and the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition in place of the currently published FEMA 508-1;
- Assemble a small team of AER subject matter experts, including former Animal Emergency Response Working Group (AERWG) members, to revise the AERWG draft products within a 6-month time frame; and
- Implement a system to allow revision of AER resources, as needed, every 3 years.