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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC & VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Blue Tongue Virus Data**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) are caused by a virus of the genus *Orbivirus* and are considered some of the most significant diseases affecting North American cervidae. The EHD and BTV viruses are wide spread and periodically cause serious epidemics in the cervid species. The diseases are carried by biting flies and occur on a seasonal basis.

These diseases infect and kill thousands of farmed and free-ranging deer each year. There is little data compiled and disseminated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that details the estimated number of deaths related to known EHD/BTV infections and the specific strains per State. Strains of EHD and BTV vary by State and by year.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to prepare a descriptive report to present at the 2018 USAHA Annual Meeting and each annual meeting, thereafter. The report shall include the following data that is available:

1. Number of estimated farmed cervid deaths related to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) per State and cervid species in the previous year.
2. Number of estimated wild cervid deaths related to EHD and BTV per State and cervid species in the previous year.
3. Strains of EHD and BTV that have been known to be found in each State for both farmed and wild cervidae in the previous year.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS reports annual summary results for strains of

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) identified through testing performed at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories during the USAHA annual meeting.

However, this report is not representative of all testing performed by State and other laboratories nor does it include information about deaths associated with these viruses. VS would need to devote considerable resources to contact State laboratories and wildlife agencies to obtain the requested information. Further, there is no repository for pathology results from the numerous State and University laboratories performing necropsies on cervids, whether farmed or otherwise, that would allow for such data collection. Finally, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) of the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine regularly reports the requested information in its Quarterly Newsletter "SCWDS Briefs" available at <http://vet.uga.edu/scwds/briefs>. VS funds a cooperative agreement with SCWDS which partially funds this work. In light of these factors, VS does not plan to initiate the data collection activities needed to be fully responsive to this resolution.