

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL EQUINE COMMUNICATION CENTER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The collaborative efforts of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Horse Council, United States Department of Agriculture, National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, and other equine industry representatives, have led to establishment of the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC).

The EDCC has been extremely successful in providing real-time notification about infectious disease cases to the equine industry in North America. Additionally, the online educational resources of EDCC have assisted horse owners, venue managers, industry associations, and State Animal Health Officials in development of effective infectious disease management and communications plans. EDCC has expanded its efforts into the development of a comprehensive database to capture case and incident data which will assist with the understanding of equine disease outbreaks in the United States.

EDCC's current challenges are raising funds to guarantee continuation of EDCC and continued reporting of equine disease incidents from State Animal Health Officials.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture to continue to provide subject matter expertise and resume financial support to maintain the established Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC). Furthermore, USAHA urges State Animal Health Officials to report confirmed cases of equine diseases reportable in their respective State to EDCC.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) values and recognizes the importance of EDCC and appreciates the opportunity to respond. USDA continues to support EDCC by providing subject matter expertise from the VS Equine Health team. USDA is also considering the request to resume financial support of EDCC and evaluating related options.