
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

**SUBJECT MATTER: Contagious Equine Metritis Import Quarantine Program
State Reviews**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), initiated a review of the United States' Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) import program in 2007. The resulting report included comments describing program deficiencies regarding regulatory oversight and accountability.

The USDA's current method of assessing the infrastructure and relevance of approved state CEM programs remains unclear. Thus, the review team's report recommended that the USDA's CEM Coordinator devise a more coherent system of review of states approved for the CEM Import Quarantine Program. To date, no reports of reviews conducted by the USDA regarding current state CEM programs have been received. Furthermore, state CEM coordinators agree that in order to accurately identify CEM carrier stallions, it is crucial that all stallion breedings be observed by regulatory personnel. Deficits in the CEM program could put domestic equine populations at an increased risk of disease and affect the trade status of the United States equine industry; it is imperative to implement credible and measurable means of periodically ensuring that all facilities within approved states conform to and remain compliant with the established standards.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to conduct on-site visits and reviews of states approved for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) import quarantine. The review should include an assessment of the state's regulatory procedures and processes, including but not limited to direct state or federal oversight of test-breeding of stallions and the standard operating procedures utilized by CEM import quarantine facilities. Furthermore, the USAHA requests that the USDA-APHIS-VS provide a report of state reviews at the annual USAHA Committee on Equine meeting and have this report available to all equine stakeholders.