
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SUBJECT MATTER: American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Responder Certification Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary health care teams are uniquely positioned to be critical resources in animal disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Unfortunately, veterinarians traditionally receive little to no awareness or training in disaster issues during their formal years of schooling. Veterinarians need to receive information on how they, and their health care teams, can be better local, state, and regional resources for animals affected by disasters.

There are several schools/colleges of veterinary medicine that have begun incorporating veterinary disaster training in their curriculum in some manner. Establishing nationally recognized core competencies for this student training will facilitate a credentialing process for graduating veterinarians. This will enable state and local response organizations to strengthen veterinary participation in local disaster planning and response.

A similar process should be developed for training graduate veterinarians who did not receive the core curriculum during their veterinary schooling.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the American Veterinary Medical Association to develop a Veterinary Responder Certification Program in coordination with schools/colleges of veterinary medicine and other veterinary educational providers. The program should certify various levels of competency for veterinary medical emergency/disaster responders, and provide state and local response organizations a baseline for credentialing veterinary responders.