



February 2, 2020

Marty Zaluski, DVM  
President  
United States Animal Health Association  
4221 Mitchell Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Zaluski:

As a long-standing member of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) appreciates the opportunity to respond to Resolution 6 as adopted during the 2019 USAHA Annual Meeting. Our thoughts and comments on the resolution may be found below.

**USAHA Resolution 6: American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Responder Certification Program**

**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.

**AVMA RESPONSE:**

As part of the AVMA family, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) has funded and the AVMA has coordinated a Disaster Education Summit each of the past two years. Participants in these summits have recognized a need for a Veterinary Responder Certificate Program.

The AVMA acknowledges and appreciates the USAHA's support for a Veterinary Responder Certificate Program as well. As you may be aware, the AVMA recently launched its online Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program. A Veterinary Responder Certificate Program, while having elements where our prior experience will likely be useful and sounding similar in nature, involves some additional complexity due to the need to develop: (1) national level core competencies, (2) education that satisfies those competencies (to be delivered by multiple providers), and (3) a database capable of tracking individuals' completion of the training required to meet the core competencies.

The AVMA has put together a basic proposal for the program and is exploring a variety of funding sources to support its development. Once we have the completed package, we'll be sharing that with our Board of Directors for approval to move forward.

Ultimately, the success of such a program will be dependent on its wide acceptance across the veterinary community. We appreciate the USAHA elevating the vision of such a program, and if the AVMA is successful in getting such an ambitious program off the ground, we look forward to continued support from and continued interaction with USAHA for implementation of the program.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I may be reached on my direct line at (847) 285-6775 or via email to [jdonlin@avma.org](mailto:jdonlin@avma.org). Additionally, feel free to reach out to Dr. Warren Hess, AVMA's Disaster Coordinator at (847) 285-6784 or via email to [whess@avma.org](mailto:whess@avma.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet D. Donlin DVM, CAE". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'D'.

Janet D. Donlin, DVM, CAE  
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

WH/MM/GCG