United States Animal Health Association

2020 Resolution

124th Annual Meeting
Oct. 5-21, 2020
Virtual Meeting

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1, 10, and 18 COMBINED **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT;**
COMMITTEE ON SWINE;
COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: **National Veterinary Stockpile Resources for Mass Depopulation of Animals**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Management of mass animal depopulation is a significant challenge for animal agriculture. Recent events, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks and the processing disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted gaps in resources available to deal with such events. Many different organizations, agencies, producers, veterinarians, and related animal industries have participated in exercises that highlight the challenges of mass depopulation of animals. Whether depopulation is for an animal health crisis, a natural disaster, or even a non-animal health related threat, as in the instance of COVID-19, methods and resources for acceptable and timely depopulation are scarce.

During the months since the identification of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States, a large- scale effort has been undertaken by state animal health officials, state pork associations, veterinarians, and producer organizations to identify areas of greatest need and to perform needed research in those areas. The outcomes of such research will provide further guidance regarding depopulation yet in 2020. Additional research focus in the area of depopulation and disposal is provided by funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program for 2020; results and outcomes for projects initiated this year, however, will not be available until 2021 or later.

The United States Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Stockpile is designed to provide federal resources in the event of a national animal health crisis. Much of the resources available are relevant for management of poultry depopulation but do not adequately cover other farmed animal outbreak events. Resources that are available for use include personal protective equipment, limited animal handling equipment (gating, chutes etc.), and captive bolt guns. The amount and type of equipment needed to conduct depopulation of swine and other farmed animal species, however, is very limited in comparison to the greater need in the event of an outbreak or other disaster.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to utilize the results of current and future research to critically review, increase, and update the available resources within the USDA National Veterinary Stockpile to support rapid response to mass depopulation crises involving swine and other farmed animal species. In addition, information gained from such studies should be incorporated into the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP)/National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) guidance and Standard Operating Procedures.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2, 5, and 15 COMBINED APPROVED

SOURCE:	**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES** **COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE** **COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES**
SUBJECT MATTER:	**Re-evaluation of Endemic Bluetongue Virus Serotypes in the United States**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is significant interest in reconsideration of the exotic/endemic classifications of selected serotypes of bluetongue virus (BTV). This interest is shared by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the livestock industry, farmed cervids industry, wildlife interests (cervids), and numerous research and diagnostic laboratories. The interest in this topic is based on the following observations:

- The BTV global range has been expanding since the 1990s.
- Bluetongue transmission continues to evolve due to climate change and animal management procedures.
- The United States (US) BTV endemic serotype list (2, 10, 11, 13, 17) has not been updated since the 1980s. Since 1999, 12 additional serotypes (BTV-1, 3-6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24) have been introduced into the Southeastern US.
- Some of these viruses not currently on the endemic serotype list have spread beyond the Southeast and have been repeatedly confirmed in multiple states in the past 10 years (e.g., BTV-1, 3, 12, 18).
- BTV positive status for import/export considerations is not specific to serotype. An animal is positive or negative based on a commercial competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay intended to detect all serotypes.
- An increased number of serotypes acknowledged as endemic in the US, to reflect that actual prevalence data, will not change/impact trade restrictions.
- Continuing to classify newly endemic serotypes as ‘exotic’ does, however, require these circulating viruses to be considered as biosafety level three (BSL-3) agents. This higher level of biocontainment severely restricts research on pathogenesis, host range, vector competence, diagnostics, and vaccines for these additional US serotypes. This reclassification would enable research to develop better diagnostics for routine diagnostic and surveillance testing.

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RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to utilize seroprevalence, molecular, and virological data from National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and other relevant research and diagnostic laboratories to develop criteria for classifying bluetongue virus (BTV) serotypes as endemic versus exotic and then to apply those criteria to the current United States list of classified bluetongue serotypes. These criteria should be reviewed by USDA-APHIS at a minimum of every five years to keep the United States endemic BTV serotype list current and relevant.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 and 12 COMBINED APPROVED

SOURCE:	**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES** **COMMITTEE ON SWINE**
SUBJECT MATTER:	**Feed Import Restrictions to Protect Against African Swine Fever Importation in Feed**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Numerous studies have emerged providing strong evidence that many viruses, including the African swine fever (ASF) virus, can survive and be transmissible from feed. There are also anecdotal reports that feed from foreign sources, particularly Asia, is produced in a manner that makes it susceptible to contamination. Not all United States (US) feed mills pellet the feed they receive, nor are they equipped to do so.

The US swine industry has now taken numerous steps to mitigate a viral threat from imported feed since the imported products have not been stopped by regulatory officials. Feed is often held for an extended period of time prior to use, and viral mitigants, to be used in feed, are being evaluated. A task force in collaboration with the US Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and Plant Protection and Quarantine was also convened but has not come to a consensus on how to protect the swine industry from viral threats associated with the import of feed ingredients. In February 2020, thirty states and the National Pork Producers Council sent a letter to USDA Secretary Perdue asking that organic soy imports be restricted from countries that are ASF positive. As of September 2020, there has been no response. Further, Canada has led with their initiative to protect swine farmers by using a national responsible imports program to mitigate the risk of contaminated feed ingredients imported from ASF positive countries. Such a program would be beneficial to US swine producers as well.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, in collaboration with the USDA Trade and Foreign Agricultural Service and other pertinent government agencies such as the United States Food and Drug Administration and USDA-APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine, to restrict the import of feed and/or feed ingredients from countries that are positive for African swine fever and to create enforceable standards for those countries to reduce the contamination threat during harvest and processing of the feed and feed ingredients.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 APPROVED

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Reaffirmation of Commitment of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics to Continue Risk-based Policy Development**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is tasked with regulating the production, labeling, distribution, and usage of a large multitude of veterinary biologicals used to protect animal and human health. USDA-APHIS-CVB's guiding principles must balance effective regulation of the industry to ensure products are pure, potent, safe, and efficacious, with making certain the regulations are accomplished using risk-based decision making to ensure availability of critical and needed products.

Newly proposed regulations and guidance documents from USDA-APHIS-CVB appear to be based on a hazard-based or "precautionary principle" approach rather than the stated "risk-based" approach, which has been the traditional position of the USDA. This can adversely affect the availability and cost of products which could, in turn, have severe effects on the health of animals and humans. The apparent lack of a risk-based approach is resulting in a potential situation of lack of production materials and, therefore, lack of vaccine availability.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics to reaffirm their commitment to risk-based policy development and continue dialogue with industry throughout the policy development process.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Food and Drug Administration Draft Guidance for Industry #256**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently provided Draft Guidance for Industry #256, "Compounding Animal Drugs from Bulk Drug Substances". In this document, FDA describes situations in which action would not be taken for violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), specifically as it relates to the compounding of animal drugs from bulk drug substances. Under the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA), compounding of animal drugs, including for food animals, from approved human or animal drugs is explicitly permitted. Until this guidance document was released, it was understood that compounding drugs from bulk substances or active pharmaceutical ingredients was also permitted when no other approved drug formulation was available or effective.

According to this guidance document, the FDA will not seek enforcement action for compounding of drugs from bulk drug substances when they are prescribed for a specific patient or group of patients of non-food animal species, when they are maintained as office stock for use in non-food animal species to treat urgent conditions and to manage pain and suffering, or when they will be used as antidotes in food animal species. The guidance document also requires that any compound that will be used as office stock or as an antidote in food animals be provided to the FDA with supporting documentation for approval. It is not feasible for the wildlife veterinary community to provide the required information for the growing number of essential active pharmaceutical ingredients for each of the species in which they will be used.

At the same time, the FDA recognizes that there are situations in which an approved human or animal drug is not available to properly treat a patient's condition. Wildlife veterinarians are concerned that many of the species treated are considered food animals and that the drugs compounded from bulk drug substances used in these species are essential to address public safety, as well as animal safety, health, and welfare. Furthermore, these drugs are most often compounded by regulated compounding pharmacies using certified ingredients and good manufacturing practices. If these drugs are not available, wildlife management activities, human and animal safety, animal health, and wildlife resources will be negatively affected.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to add the use of medications compounded from bulk drug substances by licensed compounding pharmacies for free-ranging and rehabilitated wildlife to the situations or conditions under which the FDA would not pursue enforcement action against the compounding pharmacy or prescribing veterinarian.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) were initiated by the National Aquaculture Association and developed with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2014. The standards set forth a model framework for the health of farm raised aquatic animals. CAHPS recognized and built upon current activities and existing guidelines for health of aquatic animals by establishing uniform standards for United States farmed aquatic animal health and movement.

The United States Animal Health Association applauds the efforts of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for working with the National Aquaculture Association to develop the CAHPS. The program must be implemented within a national framework to benefit all domestic aquaculture, especially with regard to national and international trade. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of industry and state and federal entities.

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 engage states to identify how the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) may be utilized in conjunction with existing aquaculture health inspections for animal movement. USAHA further urges USDA-APHIS-VS to engage states with well-established aquatic animal health policies, which could become a national model for the acceptance and integration of CAHPS to meet state regulatory requirements for aquatic animal health.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: **8** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Update of a National Plan for Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association applauds the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for working with a representative group from the National Aquaculture Association to develop a new national plan for aquaculture and aquatic animal health. A strong national plan that protects all aquatic animal health and provides a national framework for consistent inspection and testing of aquatic animals cultured in the United States will benefit all domestic aquaculture and protect natural resources. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of industry and state, tribal and federal entities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the proposed update of the 2008 National Aquatic Animal Health Plan by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services. USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS be the lead federal authority for aquatic animal health and implement a national plan that protects the health of United States aquaculture and natural resources.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **National List of Reportable Animal Diseases**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) applauds the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the proposed standards of the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases. Consistent and reliable reporting of listed and emerging pathogens is a critical component of national biosecurity, early detection, and rapid response. However, to be effective and equitable, all professionals conducting work in aquatic animal health must be held to the same standards; pertinent disease detections made in aquariums and research facilities must also be reported. While the risk from these environments may be lower by comparison, the impact of the detection is comparable. When a publication(s), scientific report(s), or lay information reveals any positive detection without prior notification to the USDA, trade and national health status may be negatively impacted. Further, we support that a detection(s) made in these settings must be confirmed by the USDA prior to publication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to implement the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) and extend the reporting requirement to academic and corporate researchers and public and private aquariums who detect a NLRAD listed pathogen or an emerging pathogen that poses a serious threat to domestic aquaculture industry sectors or natural resources. All non-negative detections in research settings of a World Organization for Animal Health listed or emerging pathogen must be confirmed by USDA prior to publication. USAHA further encourages USDA, in collaboration with others, to develop a white paper for best professional practices of those working in the field of aquatic animal or aquaculture health.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Resources for Disposal of Animal Carcasses During a Mass Mortality Event**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services emergency managers made public a web-based resource, the Carcass Management Dashboard, which focuses on depopulation, disposal, and disinfection for animal agriculture. This resource has multiple levels of information to assist producers in planning, preparedness, and response in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak, natural disaster or for other unexpected events such as the COVID-19 outbreak.

The resource is available at:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass

Producers face varying threats to their production, and to effectively respond to those threats, current and relevant information must be accessible. There are many different sources and sites for information regarding carcass disposal and management. The USDA Carcass Management Dashboard consolidates key information into one website, accessible to the public.

The information, including protocols for methods of carcass disposal, locations of landfills and carbon sourcing, and other equipment needs to support timely disposal efforts, is critical during a mass mortality event.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services emergency managers to update the Carcass Management Dashboard in a timely manner to ensure the most accurate information is available to producers. The Dashboard should include updated information on carcass disposal methods from current and ongoing research specifically on carcass disposal to help ensure that all sectors of USDA are in agreement on approved methods for a mass mortality event and to provide these results in as near real-time as possible.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: **13** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Assessment of Trade Implications for Viral Feed Mitigation Practices**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Numerous studies have emerged providing strong evidence that many viruses, including the African swine fever virus, can survive and be transmissible from feed. There are also anecdotal reports that feed from foreign sources, particularly Asia, is produced in a manner that makes it susceptible to contamination. Not all feed mills in the United States (US) pellet the feed they receive, nor are they equipped to do so.

The US swine industry has taken numerous steps to mitigate a viral threat from imported feed because the imported products have not been stopped by regulatory officials. The use of viral mitigants in feed is currently being investigated as well. These mitigants are not licensed for this purpose, and the impact of their use on the acceptability of pork products from swine that consumed mitigated feed needs to be considered.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, Strategy and Policy unit, in collaboration with the United States Food and Drug Administration and the USDA Codex Office in the USDA Trade and Foreign Agricultural Service, to conduct a risk assessment(s) in accordance with Codex Alimentarius and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines on the use of viral mitigants in feed and to determine the potential impact on swine and pork product trade capabilities when mitigants are used to prevent disease introduction.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **14** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Sustainable Diagnostic Supply Chains and Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

African swine fever has spread throughout Europe, Russia, and Asia since 2007 despite ongoing efforts by numerous countries to control the disease. Greater than 50% of the global swine population is at risk for this high morbidity/high mortality disease. The implications for food and economic security in the pork sector are severe. Fortunately, the Western hemisphere has yet to be impacted, but preparation for the emergence of the virus in this hemisphere should occur.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted diagnostic and health system limitations. Lack of adequate testing capabilities and a shortage of sampling supplies interfered with the early response to the pandemic, but the United States Food and Drug Administration's ability to evaluate and approve novel diagnostics for emergency use allowed for rapid resolution of that deficit. A similar program for animal health may be needed for rapid evaluation of suspect premises to properly assess risk.

Diagnostic efforts to detect SARS-CoV-2 appear to demonstrate that mass testing can overcome lower sensitivity thresholds associated with some diagnostic tests and diagnostic samples. Surveillance that uses repeat testing of easily available samples may be more accurate than surveillance that limits itself to single individual tests that are difficult to obtain.

Outbreak readiness must include secondary options and logistic supply plans, particularly for sampling and diagnostic purposes. United States (US) animal agriculture requires this to be a critical part of planning for catastrophic swine diseases as US commercial systems are highly integrated, have efficiency built on animal movement, and include millions of animals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the Strategy and Policy and Diagnostics and Biologics units of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, to work through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and its membership to support and advance the following efforts to ensure a sustainable supply of necessary diagnostics for use during an African swine fever outbreak:

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- Review the lessons learned to date from the appropriate United States (US) public health entities (Centers for Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratories, public health groups) to identify issues of concern and apply novel approaches that would be beneficial for emergency preparedness in the animal agricultural arena.
- Develop a publicly available list of approved commercial diagnostic tools for use in control of an animal disease outbreak and provide guidance on how and when they should be used.
- Develop emergency use authorization guidelines to rapidly assess new diagnostic assays for World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reportable transboundary animal diseases foreign to US herds and flocks.
- Evaluate the validity of realistic and sustainable surveillance scenarios using diagnostic assays on aggregate samples (oral fluids, processing fluids and other sample types) compared to individual animal sampling to ensure that on farm testing is implementable.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **16** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Backup Identification of Livestock in Commerce**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule became effective. Unless specifically exempted, livestock moving interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other approved documentation. Beef cattle less than 18 months of age and not for exhibition are exempted from official identification (ID) requirements. At this time, States may issue USDA official National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags or official 840 radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags to producers and veterinarians to identify livestock. The ADT rule prohibits the application of multiple official ID devices with few exceptions.

However, the use of multiple RFID tags of the same frequency in one animal can be problematic. Resources and technology are not currently available to use and read both low frequency and ultra high frequency tags within the management system typical of export facilities.

Despite the high retention rate of RFID tags, they are frequently lost during management of thousands of animals. Identifying the exact animal with a lost RFID in a small, closed herd may not be a problem. However, when dealing with large groups assembled from multiple herds, application of a second official ID would help ensure individual animal traceability.

Cattle and bison being exported undergo health testing, and the official ID is associated with the sample being tested at an approved laboratory. If an animal loses their single official ID between the time of health testing and final export inspection, it is impossible to demonstrate that the animal has undergone the required health testing. The loss of a single official ID tag can stop an entire shipment, because an unidentified animal with an unclear health status would jeopardize the status of the group.

This scenario was not envisioned with the proposed phasing out of NUES tags as official ID. The United States Animal Health Association supports RFID as the official ID for cattle and bison, but the use of a secondary official identification device is vital in cattle and bison in export channels. The use of a second official ID in cattle and bison exports will help maintain individual animal traceability and prevent stopped shipments.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state animal health officials (SAHOs) to work with livestock exporters and producers to identify a secondary official identification option for animals being exported to account for the risk of losing the primary official identification. USAHA has supported use of the USDA

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approved RFID tag as the primary method of official ID with resolutions 34 and 35 in 2019. For cattle exporters, low frequency RFID tags have long been the international standard for cattle ID. The transition to RFID tags as the primary official ID tag is long overdue and an important step in protecting the health of our animals and the strength of our industry.

USAHA requests that, by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2021, the USDA initiate this collaboration with SAHOs, livestock exporters, and producers who export to help identify a secondary official identification solution so that it is available prior to and in the event of National Uniform Eartagging System tags being phased out for all purposes.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON ONE HEALTH**

SUBJECT MATTER: Increased Fiscal Year 2022 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services National Rabies Management Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) has demonstrated that strategic implementation of cooperative oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs targeting wildlife is cost-effective in reducing rabies transmission to protect human and animal health and reduces the cost of living with rabies. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) determined that the most effective strategy to control terrestrial rabies targets the sources of infection (i.e., wildlife vector populations) with landscape scale control efforts. ORV programs are designed to immunize target wildlife species to increase the percentage of rabies-immune animals within vaccination zones, resulting in the reduction of rabies cases, prevention of viral spread (Phase 1 goal of the NRMP), and eventual raccoon rabies variant elimination (Phase 2 goal of the NRMP).

A comprehensive raccoon rabies management strategy has been cooperatively developed with federal, state, provincial and local partners for the elimination of the raccoon rabies variant in the United States (US) and Canada. In 2020, the NRMP and cooperators distributed more than 9 million ORV baits, including more than 8.2 million in the eastern United States to combat raccoon rabies in 17 states and more than 1 million in Texas to prevent the reemergence of canine rabies in coyotes and grey foxes along the border with Mexico. The total area baited in 2020 exceeded 62,000 square miles. In 2019, 20 miles of the ORV zone, equating to 2,324 square miles, was removed along the border with Canada in northern New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. In 2020, an additional 20 miles of the ORV zone, equating to 496 square miles, was removed along the border with Canada and northern New York. Additionally, 4,012 square miles of ORV zone was removed from Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky because raccoon rabies was eliminated from those areas. As a result, baits were shifted into raccoon rabies enzootic areas of Maine, New York and Alabama and reclassified as 1,322 square miles of new area under management. To date, there have been no new NRMP initiated contingency actions in 2020.

A minimum annual appropriation of $33 million will allow USDA to accomplish the following:

- Continue the enhanced rabies surveillance program, allowing USDA, APHIS, WS biologists to continue conducting between 5,000-7,000 field rabies test each year – 8% of all rabies testing in the US.
- Implement contingency actions in response to rabid animals in sensitive areas.
- Continue Phase 1 of the NRMP, to maintain existing ORV programs to control rabies and prevent spread in wildlife populations.
- Continue the evaluation of novel and US-licensed rabies vaccines and baits.
- Continue studies related to rabies control in skunks, mongoose, and vampire bats

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- Initiate and enhance the operations of Phase 2 of the NRMP to eliminate the raccoon rabies variant in the US.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 117th United States Congress to appropriate a minimum of $33 million for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program.