

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER: Specimen Storage Bank for Non-Negative Samples from Horses during Import Quarantine

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Infrequent situations arise when horses test non-negative for either dourine or glanders during the import quarantine period. Since these diseases are considered foreign animal diseases, horse samples are submitted solely to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for testing. This process potentially limits further research as retention time, space and requirements for handling samples with potential foreign animal disease (FAD) classification likely results in discarded samples over time. A specimen storage bank, located at USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL in Ames, Iowa could facilitate investigation of these non-negative samples, which would further understanding of the non-negative test results in these horses, improve diagnostics, and advance import testing protocols. USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL banking of samples for future collaborative research and investigation under USDA permit with samples made available for testing at designated research labs ensures the USDA and the United States equine industry is advancing equine health and diagnostic capabilities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to create a storage bank for non-negative specimen samples collected from horses in import quarantine.