
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.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS acknowledges and supports the initiative to catalogue and store equine samples determined non-negative by serodiagnostic testing for piroplasmiasis, dourine, and glanders. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has stored diagnostic samples as far back as 2009 from both imported and rejected horses. Future efforts will focus on continued retention and more formal cataloging of well-characterized sera to establish a serum bank available to external groups for research purposes. Furthermore, antisera for piroplasmiasis, dourine, and glanders from laboratory inoculations are available as standard items in the NVSL Reagent Catalog.