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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:          Tiered Import Referral Hospital**

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The continued recognition of adverse health events in imported equine creates a strain on the limited number of approved equine referral hospitals for imported horses. Industry recognizes the need for additional referral hospitals, however, the current standards for the referral hospitals limits the interest or availability of hospitals. Febrile horses which test negative for the imported horse diseases (equine infectious anemia, piroplasmosis, dourine and glanders) should be considered lower risk than imported horses lacking test results. Less stringent standards should be applied to referral hospitals accepting horses which are negative for equine infectious anemia, piroplasmosis, dourine and glanders.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to develop a tiered approval system for referral veterinary hospitals accepting horses for treatment from import quarantine facilities. Standards for each tier would be based on relevant risk. USAHA further requests that state animal health officials and industry stakeholders be involved in the discussion and development of such standards.

**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. Veterinary facilities used for imported horses of unknown health status that require medical or surgical interventions must meet the same facility standards provided in title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, section 93.308(c), for permanent, privately owned quarantine facilities to ensure adequate safeguards are in place to prevent the transmission of animal diseases or disease agents, into, within, or from the facilities. APHIS welcomes collaboration with USAHA, State Animal Health Officials, and industry stakeholders. APHIS has convened a working group to identify challenges and discuss development of a risk-based, tiered approval system for referral veterinary hospitals accepting horses for treatment from import quarantine facilities.