
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

**SUBJECT MATTER: Development of a Veterinary Accreditation Module on
Equine Foreign Animal Diseases**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The increasing worldwide occurrences of equine foreign animal diseases and the increasing international travel of the United States (US) equine population poses a significant risk to our nation's equine population. In addition, the limited working knowledge of US equine practitioners regarding equine foreign animal diseases is of great concern; specifically, the scientific laboratory advances and changes in the understanding of disease epidemiology related to African horse sickness, glanders, and dourine. Knowledge of diagnostic technologies and appropriate testing is critical to the protection of the US equine population. Continued education and outreach to private practitioners on equine foreign animal diseases is imperative. The addition of equine foreign animal disease modules for private practitioners enables equine veterinarians, particularly those accredited veterinarians providing clinical care to horses at import centers, to develop a background knowledge and remain current in their knowledge of equine foreign animal diseases and advances the protection of the US equine population.

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 develop National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Equine Foreign Animal Disease modules to address the current scientific understanding, relevant need for biosecurity and epidemiology of equine foreign animal diseases of interest, including but not limited to, African horse sickness, glanders, and dourine.

Additionally, the USAHA encourages USDA-APHIS-VS-NVAP to collaborate with academic and laboratory infectious disease experts with a specialty in equine diseases, as well as the USDA-APHIS equine team and state animal health officials in module development.

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.

The APHIS National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) provides 35 training modules for accredited veterinarians. Three of the modules are equine specific and at least ten provide subject material pertinent to equine veterinarians. Module 31, High-Impact Equine Diseases in the United States, explains the role of the accredited veterinarian regarding five high impact equine diseases in the United States, three of which are foreign animal diseases (FADs). Several NVAP modules provide information about the importance of rapid detection and prompt reporting of foreign animal and other reportable diseases.

We encourage USAHA to contact the NVAP program for a module request form, to provide a detailed explanation of the proposed module content, point of contact, and recommendations for collaborative resources to develop a specific equine FAD module.