

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 1      **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PROMOTING THE USE OF STANDARDIZED BACTERIAL  
FINGERPRINTING STRATEGIES

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States needs to continuously generate baseline studies that discover bacterial fingerprints (bacterial genotypes) in order to discern the emergence of new *Salmonella* strains that if introduced into our human and animal populations may spread throughout the food chain. We need to coordinate the currently used pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) data with other microbial typing methods as they are discovered in addition to improving the cost effectiveness of genotyping.

## **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) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase support for effective *Salmonella* surveillance to protect public health, food safety, and international trade by the use of standardized bacterial fingerprinting strategies and the centralized storage, management and interpretation of collected data.

## **RESPONSES:**

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine**

[FDA-CVM] has shared Resolution 1 (Promoting the Use of Standardized Bacterial Fingerprinting Strategies) and Resolution 23 (Continued Support for the Negotiations to Harmonize International Rules and Regulations Governing Methods of Detecting Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food to Reduce Veterinary Drugs in Food to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade) with our Office of Research and our representatives to Codex.

### **USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns about *Salmonella*. Its National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory (DBL), is working to support this resolution. The NVSL recently gained access to the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PulseNet database and will add its pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) data. This will allow NVSL to play a direct role in foodborne and other zoonotic *Salmonella* investigations. The NVSL is also working to gain access to USDA's VetNet database. The NVSL will be collaborating with USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to increase the number of diagnostic *Salmonella* isolates that are tested using PFGE, which will allow ARS more opportunities to compare PFGE to other typing methods. In addition, NVSL is working in conjunction with CDC on a luminex-based assay for the molecular determination of *Salmonella* serotypes, with the goal of increasing the amount and speed of data collection as well as cost effectiveness.