

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), initiated a review of the United States' contagious equine metritis (CEM) import activities. The CEM Program Review Team was comprised of members representing VS' National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE), National Center for Animal Programs (NCAHP), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), policy program and development staff, area offices, state veterinarians and university personnel.

The 2009 United States CEM incident involving 48 states and 991 exposed equids initiated "The First Conference of Experts on CEM" at the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting in San Diego on October 9, 2009. The conference purpose and intent was to review recent developments concerning the national incident of CEM, discuss CEM protocols, review ongoing *Taylorella equigenitalis* research, and to discuss possible further CEM research and regulatory actions at the state and federal level. Concerns were addressed on the lack of consistent CEM testing and treatment protocols at both a state and federal level.

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) to immediately implement the recommendations of the 2007 Contagious Equine Metritis Working Group in VS Memorandum.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Service (VS) has undertaken and completed the majority of the recommendations of the 2007 Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Working Group. Some recommendations cannot be addressed through a VS memorandum. For example, recommended changes in the testing protocols for mares and stallions require amending

the existing regulations. APHIS anticipates publication of an interim rule incorporating those changes later this year. We have completed training for laboratory personnel and State CEM coordinators. We will be using the Emergency Management Response System as a database for tracking imported horses subject to CEM testing. We have drafted a new VS memorandum regarding testing and treatment of mares and stallions; however, the memorandum includes the revised testing protocols and will not be finalized until after the interim rule is published.

The recommendations included some elements that VS cannot implement. For example, the Review Group recommended hiring a full-time employee to oversee the CEM program, which the APHIS budget and workload could not justify.

Recommendations that were best incorporated in a VS memorandum will be included in the revised testing and treatment memorandum, such as communication of horse movement and test results, revised testing protocols, and standards for CEM facilities.