

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL REPORTABLE ANIMAL
DISEASE LIST

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Committee is tasked with evaluating animal disease information systems that provide information to stakeholders for activities and decisions related to maintaining the health of animals and people, controlling and eradicating disease, and assuring the well-being of animals and profitability of animal industries. In 2006, the Committee formally identified the need for a unified national list of notifiable and reportable diseases. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) previously recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) compile and evaluate current state reporting and notification requirements. Although all States have a required reportable diseases list, there exists large variability in these lists. Requirements for federal reporting are related only to program diseases or foreign animal diseases (FADs).

A National List of Reportable Animal Diseases will provide one standardized national reportable animal diseases list, demonstrate to trading partners and other countries that the United States has a uniform national list of reportable diseases, assist in meeting international reporting obligations and validate the United States' required international reporting to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as required export certifications, and improve zoonotic and endemic animal disease reporting in the United States.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List of Notifiable Diseases currently provides a list of diseases that have implications related to international spread, zoonotic potential, and potential for significant mortality or morbidity. This list can serve as a starting point in the development of a national list of reportable diseases for the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in cooperation with state animal health officials and industry, develop a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases. The National List of Reportable Animal Diseases should include appropriate reporting criteria. The List of Diseases Notifiable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) should be used as a starting point in developing a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS' National Surveillance Unit (NSU) is drafting a list of diseases that may be considered a national reportable disease, using the list of diseases notifiable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a starting point. NSU has conducted background research of required disease reporting in the *Code of Federal Regulations* and in other pertinent rules, agreements, and memos.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, NSU determined that VS does not have the authority to implement a mandatory list, but does have authority to develop voluntary guidelines. This information was presented to the VS Management Team (VSMT) in January 2008. VSMT instructed NSU to continue development of the list, form a working group of stakeholders, and explore the possibility of rulemaking that would formalize the list. VSMT also requested periodic progress reports.