



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS TESTING IN FARMED CERVIDAE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the 1950's several researchers have experimentally infected white-tailed deer with *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) and they are susceptible to the agent, but in no single case, either experimentally or naturally, have white-tailed deer been shown to transmit *B. abortus* to cattle or any other species. Only once in over 50 years has a free ranging wild white-tailed deer been shown to be infected with *B. abortus*. During this same time period, thousands of farmed white-tailed and mule deer have been tested as a requirement for interstate shipments without identifying any problems concerning brucellosis in these species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and state regulatory officials to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed white-tailed deer and mule deer.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Service recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis continue to be reported in spillover infections between domestic livestock (including farmed cervids) and free-ranging wild bison, deer, and elk. Some areas of the country, like the Greater Yellowstone Area, are more impacted by this interface of disease transmission. APHIS is developing a proposed tuberculosis and brucellosis rule to address ongoing disease risks and current scientific perspectives on disease transmission and control. The rule will be published in the Federal Register for public comment. We encourage stakeholders to submit their comments at that time.