

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 17 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON AND COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES

**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

For national information systems to be successful they must be practical and usable by states with a variety of technical capabilities. As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develops national information systems, it is important to seek the input of states to assure that the systems developed can be supported by states. Many states have already developed their own information system for premises and animal identification data and to store and retrieve disease program data. It is important for the developers of national information systems to tap into this expertise and to assure that the products that are developed will be compatible with existing or planned state systems.

### **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 utilize Change Control Boards or other mechanisms during the development and implementation of information systems to encourage input from states and other stakeholders and facilitate interoperability with stakeholder systems. In addition, a communications mechanism for at least quarterly reporting to stakeholders on information systems development within VS should be implemented and maintained.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)**

Veterinary Services (VS) has traditionally depended on user groups to provide the system requirements for major information technology systems. Recently, the concept of user groups was expanded to Change Control Boards (CCBs), and successfully utilized in the development of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Surveillance System. The difference in the two concepts includes a broader representation of all stakeholders and continuance of involvement by the CCB in evaluating the on-going use of the system once developed and subsequent changes.

Due to the previously mentioned success, VS is establishing CCBs for other major VS enterprise systems including Generic Data Base, National Animal Identification System, and Veterinary Services Process Streamlining. A key component of the input from CCBs members representing states and other stakeholders will be to identify requirements for the interfacing of VS IT systems with State and industry information systems when appropriate.

In 2006, VS will include the status of major IT system development and milestones on the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, Center for Animal Disease Information and Analysis Web site.