

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUEST FOR SERUM FROM THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM FOR AN EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SEROLOGICAL SURVEY

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is currently classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, due to past issues with import testing, the causal agents, *Babesia equi* and/or *Babesia caballi*, possibly exist at some undetermined prevalence level in the country's resident horse population.

Concern over this issue was addressed by way of resolutions in 2006 from the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was based upon recommendations from the EP Subcommittee of the USAHA committee on the Infectious Diseases of Horses. The major resolution adopted by USAHA advocated conducting a slaughter horse survey to estimate the prevalence or lack thereof of EP infection in the United States (US) resident horse population.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is no longer a viable option. The EP Subcommittee met by conference call on July 9, 2007, and discussed alternative strategies for achieving this goal. An alternative discussed and unanimously approved was to make application to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and request that residual sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to EP. The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

The outcome of such a survey would help greatly in resolving the current uncertainty regarding the prevalence of EP in the domestic US horse population. If a significant prevalence of EP infection is found in our horse population, then the issue can be responsibly addressed.

Resolutions:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) provide residues of sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey to be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to Equine Piroplasmosis (EP). The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

RESPONSE:**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The decision was made by the EP subcommittee to use the residual serum submitted to diagnostic laboratories (Resolution 19) as the basis of the survey rather than the 1998 NAHMS samples.