

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLECTION OF SERUM FROM CERVIDS ROUTINELY TESTED BY THE SINGLE CERVICAL TEST FOR EVALUATION OF THE RAPID TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN CERVIDS

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent advances in the science of tuberculosis testing has led to the development of serological tests. The availability of serological tests for captive cervids would decrease the need for handling of these species, and would allow for increased interest in tuberculosis testing by producers. In order to provide information needed to assess the sensitivity and specificity of these tests, collection of serum samples during tuberculosis (TB) testing is needed. This serum could be used to evaluate currently available tests, and create a serum bank for use in evaluation of tests which may be developed in the future. Serum-based tests for use in cervid species would lead to increased participation of captive cervid herds in the tuberculosis eradication program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), recommends that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) validate a serological tuberculosis test for captive cervids. USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to take the lead in organizing a pilot project with industry so that prior to each single cervical test injection in captive cervids a blood sample is collected and serum submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for evaluation of the VetTB Stat-PakTM rapid test for one year. Serum should be banked for evaluation of a future serology test. Results of this evaluation should be submitted for review by the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Tuberculosis.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) maintains interest in enhancing and approving new, reliable tests for tuberculosis. We specifically look forward to

testing methods that will exceed the accuracy of our current tests and reduce the impact of testing on producers and their livestock. For these reasons, VS fully supports this recommendation.

Implementation of this project will be heavily dependent on the industry for providing samples, providing assistance with the purchase of suspects and reactors for confirmatory testing, assistance during testing, and with the promotion of this effort within the industry. Implementation of this project is also dependent on the availability of time, personnel, and financial resources. VS fully intends to pursue this project as long as the required resources and industry support are available.