



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS – RELEASE OF TEST NEGATIVE
TREATED HORSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the past two years, approximately 170 Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) affected horses in the United States were enrolled in an approved treatment plan for *Theileria equi* (*T. equi*) designed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service. Preliminary reports on the treatment outcome are very encouraging. A high percentage of the horses tested negative on polymerase chain reaction testing soon after completion of treatment. Twenty-five (25) post treatment animals tested negative via transfusion into splenectomized horses with all recipient animals remaining serologically negative providing clear evidence of the effectiveness of the treatment plan. While most post treatment horses remain positive on competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA), a significant number test negative on both cELISA and Complement Fixation and therefore no longer meet the case definition for EP.

A national guideline for state quarantine release of cELISA test negative post treatment horses enrolled in an approved treatment plan would promote understanding and cooperation among states, preventing unnecessary test requirements being placed on such horses moving interstate.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develop and publish guidelines for Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) *Theileria equi* test negative horses after completion of an approved EP treatment plan and that have met the following conditions to be considered for state quarantine release:

- Enrolled in the USDA-APHIS-VS/USDA, Agriculture Research Service (ARS) treatment research program as per VS Memo 555.20; **AND**
- Treated using the USDA-ARS published imidocarb treatment protocol under state or federal supervision; **AND**



- Be identified with ISO-compliant microchip and that the identification number be held in a repository accessible by states; **AND**
- Nested real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and complement fixation test negative on post-treatment testing; **AND**
- Negative by transfusion to a splenectomized horse **OR** negative by the USDA-ARS Western Blot clearance test; **AND**
- Competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA) negative at USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory;

Additionally, annual cELISA tests should be conducted for the first three years after release as added assurance of disease freedom.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is reviewing the data on equine piroplasmiasis- (EP) affected horses that test negative after being treated according to the program that the Agricultural Research Service designed for *Theileria equi*. We will report on this data review at the 2012 annual USAHA meeting and will develop a policy on the disposition of EP-affected horses that test negative after treatment.