

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Public Practice white paper identified a developing shortage of future veterinarians with interests and expertise needed to meet existing societal needs in population medicine, public practice and public health. Many colleges and schools of veterinary medicine are making efforts to increase the professional student pool interested in research, population medicine, and food animal medicine, to help meet societal needs in the future. The educational experiences of veterinary students participating in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) externships in the past have proven very successful in introducing and motivating students to continue their pursuit of professional opportunities in the area of diagnostics, prevention, control and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases. Veterinary students participating in USDA externship programs have further stimulated interest in public practice among their classmates. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases (FED) proposes that USDA and USAHA (Committee on FED) work together to contribute to future veterinary staffing needs in public health by facilitating the efforts of veterinary faculty and expanding the USDA externship program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges:

1. the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to increase the externship opportunities for veterinary students.
2. the USDA-APHIS-VS to develop externship application information to facilitate finding externship opportunities, facilitate liaison contact, wherever possible, with members of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases and college deans.
3. the USDA-APHIS-VS recruit a pool of applicants for externship and obtain funding. Opportunities need to be identified by December 15 and acceptance notified by February 15 of each year; thereby students can consider these opportunities when planning for summer jobs.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), agrees with the USAHA resolution calling for VS to increase the externship opportunities for veterinary students. APHIS-VS annually sponsor summer internships for students at headquarters and in the field. VS central funds support the summer student interns' transportation, housing, and salary. There are eight VS centrally funded summer internships available at multiple VS offices for the summer 2005. In addition to these centrally funded internships, some VS offices use individual program funds to hire students through the Student Education Employment Programs' Student Career Experience Program and the Student Temporary Employment Program.

USDA-APHIS-VS also agrees with the USAHA resolution calling for VS to develop externship application information that would facilitate finding externship opportunities, and to facilitate liaison contact with USAHA's Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases members and college deans. VS is investigating the expansion of current liaison services by the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. This entity, through an existing memorandum with APHIS, brings information about existing APHIS-VS externship opportunities at headquarters and in the field to U.S. veterinary students. In addition, APHIS-VS representatives attend

major veterinary conferences in the United States and distribute resource information about APHIS employment opportunities.

Finally, the USDA-APHIS-VS agrees with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolution calling for VS to seek funding to advertise available summer externship by December 15 and to notify selected applicants by February 15. APHIS-VS is reviewing this resolution, and is exploring possible funding and logistics options to bring this resolution to fruition.