RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22  APPROVED

SOURCE:    COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:  THE NORTH AMERICAN RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On September 8th, 2007 during world rabies day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the United States (US) had eliminated the canine rabies variant. This was made possible by the success of a collaborative project of Federal, State, Local, and academic partners. This program resulted in elimination of canine rabies variant, endemic in Mexico, in coyotes from South Texas using RABORAL V-RG® (Merial) and the continued surveillance and vaccination barrier of the Texas/Mexico border. Continued progress in the eastern US with Canada to control the raccoon rabies variant and new programs to study the control of skunk rabies variant utilizing oral vaccines are reviewed at the annual United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) Rabies Management Team meeting. At these meetings, the North American Rabies Management Plan has been developed with state, tribal, US, Canada, and Mexico agencies to plan the management, control and elimination of terrestrial rabies in North America.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continued surveillance and control of the canine variant of rabies to prevent the reintroduction of this strain into the United States. USAHA also encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and the HHS, CDC to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist state and local agencies in maintaining this canine-free rabies status and expand the coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs through the newly developed North American Rabies Management Plan with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally, nationally and throughout the North American continent.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) agrees with USAHA Resolution 22 on the importance of continued surveillance and control of the canine rabies variant to prevent reintroduction into the United States. We recognize the importance of continued surveillance and control of the canine variant of rabies to prevent the reintroduction of this strain into the United States. In 2007, the United States was declared free of canine rabies variant as a result of ongoing cooperative efforts among Federal, State, and local authorities. WS and counterparts in Mexico and Canada completed a North American Rabies Management Plan (NARMP) to facilitate effective border rabies control during FY 2007. The plan identifies four primary areas for international collaboration: information exchange, enhanced rabies surveillance, control and research. The NARMP is in a final review process by administrative entities in each country leading to formal signatures to the plan during FY 2008. WS also agrees with USAHA that there is a need for expanded support of regional wildlife rabies management programs. In addition to the broad objectives outlined in the NARMP, the focus of wildlife rabies management in the United States will be further detailed in a National Plan for the Management of Rabies in Wildlife. The ability to provide enhanced support at the local and regional level will require additional resources.