RESOLUTION NUMBER:  24   APPROVED

SOURCE:   COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: USE OF BUFFERED ACID PLATE ANTIGEN AND FLOURESCENT POLARIZATION ASSAY IN CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluated data presented by Ryan Clarke on the use of buffered acid plate antigen (BAPA) and fluorescent polarization assay (FPA) for the diagnosis of *Brucella abortus* in elk. The subcommittee found that these tests offer sensitivities and specificities similar to currently approved tests for cervids. Additionally, these tests are cheaper, easier and faster for many laboratories to perform. The scientific advisory subcommittee of the Committee on Brucellosis recommended the BAPA be approved as a screening test for brucellosis in cervids, and that the FPA be approved as a confirmatory test for brucellosis in cervids.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services include buffered acid plate antigen as a presumptive test and fluorescent polarization assay as a presumptive or a confirmatory test for the use of brucellosis diagnosis in cervids.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services supports the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolution regarding the use of the buffered acid plate antigen (BAPA) and the fluorescent polarization assay (FPA) test in cervids.

The BAPA will be incorporated as a presumptive test and the FPA as both a presumptive and confirmatory test for the use of brucellosis diagnosis in cervids based on the recommendation of the Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Committee and USAHA’s Brucellosis Committee. While there is a lack of data in species other than elk, the limited studies available for other species, such as white-tailed deer, support taking this action. Before we finalize the new brucellosis and tuberculosis comprehensive regulations and supporting program standards, which will cover captive cervids, we will issue a policy statement that incorporates these tests as official tests for cervids.
Further, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) continues to provide support for laboratories wishing to perform the *Brucella abortus* BAPA and FPA tests in the form of diagnostic testing, supply of diagnostic reagents, and a proficiency testing program. Additionally wildlife serum samples are planned to be included as part of future proficiency tests based upon sample availability and validation by NVSL.