

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION—2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26      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 IN CERVIDS

**DATES:**                      RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the 2006 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution Number 21: "The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the 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-Pak™ 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".

This Resolution had the following response: "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".

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to expedite the validation process for tuberculosis (TB) serological tests for cervids to enhance surveillance for TB.

### **RESPONSE:**

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Serology Section of the Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is currently working with various cervid producer associations to obtain serum samples from a variety of cervid species. A cervid serum bank has been established; the number of species and the number of samples for each species are increasing. As of January 1, 2008, there were 1,273 serum samples in the bank. The NVSL continues to create panels of blind samples to assist in the evaluation of cervid TB serological tests being developed.