RESOLUTION NUMBER:  27       APPROVED

SOURCE:            COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REPORTING OF FOLLOW UP ON TRACE INVESTIGATIONS FROM SUSPECT ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The success of disease eradication programs relies on successful epidemiological investigations and follow-up. Investigations which are timely and complete provide the greatest opportunity for isolating and/or removing infected animals and subsequent control and eradication of livestock diseases. While protecting the privacy of individual producers, it is imperative that outcomes of investigations be available to other animal health officials, and withstands peer review. This allows animal health officials to make informed, reasoned, and effective decisions to protect the nation’s and state’s animal health industries.

Recognizing this need, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) compiled and distributed comprehensive summaries during a number of recent disease outbreaks including contagious equine metritis, piroplasmosis and equine herpesvirus.

With the recent departure from state disease status classification systems for tuberculosis and brucellosis in favor of a regional or local response, dissemination of this type of information on these diseases significantly increased in importance. Indeed, USDA-APHIS-VS has responded to requests from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials by compiling and distributing investigation reports to animal health officials on tuberculosis and brucellosis. These reports, while useful, need to also include the status of epidemiological traces on a periodic basis to be most beneficial.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) continue to compile and distribute, to state and tribal animal health officials, investigation reports on brucellosis on a monthly basis and provide immediate reporting and frequent updating of emerging disease events. Further the USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS, the states and tribes to include status of trace investigations, including a summary of unsuccessful brucellosis trace investigations in these reports.

INTERIM RESPONSE:
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates discussions with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and United States Animal Health Association concerning a situation report template. This template will be used to inform States about epidemiological investigations, including tracing information for brucellosis and tuberculosis affected herds. The use of this situation report will be a collaborative effort between the States and VS. We expect the template will be ready for use by March 2012. In addition, VS will continue to distribute to the States a monthly summary report on brucellosis- and tuberculosis-affected herds as well as an update on tuberculosis slaughter cases.