

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

**RESOLUTION:** 28 NOT APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** A NEW BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) WILDLIFE DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

**DATES:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The introduction and emergence of infectious diseases of wildlife is becoming increasingly important because many diseases of domestic animals and humans involve wildlife as hosts or reservoirs. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) has unique capabilities to address national disease control efforts in wildlife.

It is crucial that USDA-APHIS-WS expand its capacity to effectively deal with wildlife diseases of concern. An essential part of this increased capacity is the construction of a stand-alone Biosafety Level 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) research laboratory at the NWRC to support expanding research and operational efforts to better understand and combat these emerging and invasive wildlife diseases.

The laboratory should be used to conduct research on wildlife diseases; to develop methods to identify, monitor, control, eradicate and prevent the introduction of wildlife diseases into the United States; to respond to outbreaks of wildlife disease and emergency situations; and to provide emergency surge capacity to the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to secure funding for the construction and operation of a 25,000 square foot (approximate) Biosafety Level 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) laboratory at an estimated cost of \$50 million at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) at Fort Collins, Colorado.