



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: ELEPHANT TUBERCULOSIS GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The emergence of tuberculosis (TB), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, in elephants in 1996 prompted the formation of an advisory panel to draft guidelines for the control of tuberculosis in elephants. Since that time various modifications of the guidelines have been drafted. The proposed 2010 guidelines incorporate several changes including additional clarification and requirements within the TB management group options for culture positive or serologically reactive elephants.

The 2008 guidelines called for annual testing by the triple culture method (3 trunk wash samples) and a single sample of serum collected for analysis by the ElephantTB Stat-Pak[®] Assay and, where warranted, by the Chembio Diagnostic Systems Inc., MAPIA[™]. The ElephantTB Stat-Pak[®] Assay was approved and licensed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Veterinary Biologics in 2007. The 2010 proposed guidelines allow use of a newly developed serological test – Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc., Dual Path Platform (DPP[®]) VetTB Assay which was evaluated by Greenwald *et.al* in 2009. The proposed guidelines for treatment and movement restrictions would also include serological results and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex exposure history.

A Subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Tuberculosis was formed at the 2007 USAHA annual meeting to review and comment on proposed guidelines and was charged by the TB Committee Chair in 2010 to review the 2008 guidelines in light of new scientific publications and data collected from official USDA diagnostic testing.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care adopt and implement the “Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants 2010.”

RESPONSE:

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care intends to utilize the 2010 guidelines after following a transparent process that includes notification of stakeholders and development of an implementation plan.