

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 52 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTROL OF TICKS ON IMPORTED REPTILES

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

High numbers of tick-infested reptiles continue to be brought into the United States from countries throughout the world. These imported exotic ticks may serve as vectors for animal diseases such as heartwater, and thus threaten the U.S. livestock industry. Program components have been drafted to permit, certify, inspect and treat, if necessary, such imported reptiles. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Health Protection Act has clear authority and responsibility to prohibit or restrict the importation of animals and to impose post-importation quarantine measures to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any pest or disease into the United States.

RESOLUTION:

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) expedite the implementation of regulations to prevent the introduction of disease agents and ectoparasites of concern on reptiles entering the United States and to carry out a program in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Control Directorate (CBP), and the Department of Interior (USDI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and in conjunction with affected states, to ensure effective control measures are taken to eliminate any ticks imported into the United States on reptiles.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

The National Center for Import and Export has initiated a risk assessment to determine the need for regulations regarding the importation of reptiles into the United States. The conclusions of the risk assessment will be used to determine the type of regulations needed. If rule making is needed, it will be given a priority in context of other rulemaking activities.