RESOLUTION NUMBER: 66  APPROVED

SOURCE:       COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMEN, EMBRYOS AND LIVE ANIMALS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) maintains a website with current negotiated international export health requirements for poultry, live animals, embryos and semen.

The National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) and Certified Semen Services (CSS) have met with and worked with USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE for several years attempting to get the import requirements for live animals, semen and embryos posted on the same website to serve importers as a reference. USDA does not routinely issue the import requirements for these products and animals when import permits are applied for and issued to importers. As businesses involved in the export of live animals and germplasm grow and develop, the import of genetically superior live animals or their germplasm becomes an important aspect of business planning and development. Having a website maintained by USDA, with the most current import requirements posted for reference by importers is important in facilitating efficient information and transparent international import health requirements for both domestic businesses and international trading partners.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) to develop and maintain a website with the most current import health requirements for live animals, semen and embryos as well as poultry and hatching eggs.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS’ National Center for Import and Export is currently in the process of reviewing all live animal import protocols to include semen and embryos. The protocols will be reviewed to ensure the import conditions are consistent with regulations and USDA policy, edited to establish a standard format, and, in some cases, renegotiated with exporting countries. As protocols are finalized, they will be
posted through a link on the APHIS Web site, which contains current live animal import information. We expect to complete this project during 2008.