

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 72

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON
DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Brucellosis Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) specify official brucellosis vaccines as animals vaccinated at 4 – 12 months of age. Bison do not become sexually active until they reach an age which is approximately 12 months greater than the age at which cattle become sexually active. Bison management provides for brucellosis vaccination at an age up to 18 months which would result in increased numbers of bison vaccinated for brucellosis.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to rapidly institute changes in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for brucellosis that specify official brucellosis vaccinated bison as those vaccinated at 4-18 months of age.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Vaccination of cattle and bison has been an important tool in eradicating brucellosis from domestic livestock and bison in the United States. VS will request that USAHA's Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate the use of *Brucella abortus* Strain RB 51 vaccine in bison between the age of 12 and 18 months. If this Subcommittee recommends the use of this vaccine in this age of animal, the Center for Veterinary Biologics will evaluate the recommendation.

Concurrently, VS will examine if changes to title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 78 are required.