
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 **Approved**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **International Movement of Horses**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The exponential growth in international movement of the competition horse in the past 10 years has challenged the validity of the federal regulations and resulted in welfare issues as well as impeded movement of United States (US) horses for international competitions. The current regulations have led to an increase in the inconsistent application of temporary waivers and has increased the workload of the limited United States Department of Agriculture staff and the equine industry. Furthermore, the advances of science, technology and diagnostic tests, have not been incorporated into the international movement regulations and policies.

The United States Animal Health Association Committee on Equine identifies a need for a collaborative comprehensive review of the data, regulations, policies and procedures related to international movement of equids and equine products to be conducted by a representative group of equine industry and subject matter experts to:

1. Evaluate the current management of equids in US import quarantine facilities to identify potential solutions to address equine health and welfare concerns.
2. Analyze international movement data of equids and equine products to identify trends, challenges and issues related to the international movement of competition horses.
3. Analyze the historic and current use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and waivers for US competition horses with the intent of developing a standard criterion and science-based template for consistent and timely issuance of waivers.
4. Review the historic use of temporary event quarantines specifically, the MOUs, standards and protocols utilized with the goal of development of science-based recommendations to facilitate expanded international competitions in the US.
5. Review the World Organization for Animal Health's High Health, High Performance Horses framework to identify how the framework can be implemented in the US.
6. Compile analysis and review findings in a written document which identifies current issues with the equine import-export process and propose potential solutions for addressing the challenges.

To truly understand the issues, various segments of the industry need to collaborate to ensure practical, evidence-based solutions can be identified.



RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to form a discussion group to include representatives from the USDA Equine Health Team, USDA Equine Import/Export Staff, USAHA Committee on Equine, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians/National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories, National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, American Horse Council, American Association of Equine Practitioners Infectious Disease Committee, United States Equestrian Federation, Jockey Club, American Quarter Horse Association, international/national transporters, brokers and academia (specifically subject matter experts on foreign animal diseases and equine diagnostic testing) to perform a comprehensive review of the international movement of equids and equine products to document concerns, challenges and potential solutions which culminates in a plan and timeline for addressing the international movement needs of the equine industry.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS VS works closely with industry to address concerns related to equine imports. VS is unable to take on the formation or leadership of the discussion group outlined in the resolution at this time; however, we enthusiastically support the USAHA and industry in conducting the outlined assessments and developing white papers and recommendations for VS' consideration.