

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:          High Health High Performance Horse Resolution**

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**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to recognize the subpopulation of High Health High Performance horses (HHP) and to utilize the World Organisation for Animal Health framework to implement an HHP concept in the United States (US) for qualified competition and racehorses. USAHA further requests USDA provide representatives from the Equine Health Team, Import and Export Policy Team, Port Services and Equine Special Events Team to participate in a working group led by the USAHA Committee on Equine to discuss the identification, traceability, biosecurity and health monitoring parameters of the HHP subpopulation related to the implementation of an HHP concept in the US.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The safe movement of international competition and racehorses is critical to the equine industry. Equine athletes at the highest levels of competition train like human athletes, with health and fitness as top priorities. These horses receive continuous routine veterinary care and are supported by a dedicated team of allied health professionals who focus on their well-being both at home and during competition.

These horses are classified as High Health, High Performance (HHP) horses, based on standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), in collaboration with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities. The HHP framework is outlined in a WOAH publication that defines this subpopulation for international competition.

The HHP concept was specifically designed to address barriers to the international movement of competition horses while safeguarding the equine health status of the receiving country, the competing horses, and their home country upon return. It is based on WOAH's principles of compartmentalization and applies exclusively to competition horses entering temporarily—not to those used for breeding or permanent residency.

The goal is to provide a rational and scientifically sound basis for national animal health authorities to harmonize entry requirements for the temporary importation of this class of horses. The HHP guidance document outlines the key components of the concept, including requirements for identification, traceability, biosecurity, and health monitoring.

The HHP concept has been successfully implemented by the European Union and the

United Kingdom to facilitate the temporary movement of this subpopulation of horses with limited restrictions to and from recognized FEI events.

**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' equine import regulations generally align with WOAHP recommendations, but do not completely reflect the relatively new HHP framework. APHIS is working with USAHA, states, and industry to evaluate how HHP fits within our current equine import regulations.

As requested, APHIS staff from the Equine Health Team, Live Animal Imports, and Port Services are participating in a USAHA working group on HHP. This work will help APHIS better understand and leverage identification, traceability, biosecurity, and health-monitoring parameters as they pertain to equine imports into the United States. If APHIS determines that regulatory changes are needed, rulemaking may take considerable time.