2026 Resolution
130th Annual Meeting
October 15-21, 2026
Madison, WI

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED

Source: **COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Canada Equine Import Requirements**

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, Import/Export negotiate with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to implement the following revisions to the import requirements for horses entering Canada from the United States:

- Vesicular Stomatitis (VS): Remove the 21-day prohibition on horses from a VS-affected state and replace it with a requirement for a negative VS complement fixation test for horses from a VS-affected state.
- New World Screwworm (NWS): Remove the 21-day prohibition on horses from an NWS-infested state and replace it with requirements for wound inspection, treatment of any wounds, systemic NWS treatment, certification of inspection within five days prior to entry into Canada, and examination by a veterinarian upon arrival.
- Equine Piroplasmosis (EP): Remove the Texas and New Mexico-specific requirements for equine piroplasmosis testing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Canadian animal health requirements for equine entry create barriers to equine movement for competition because some requirements are outdated and do not reflect current science or the availability of advanced diagnostic testing. Specifically, Canada prohibits the entry of horses from a vesicular stomatitis (VS)-affected state for 21 days and from a New World screwworm-affected state for 21 days. Canada also requires equine piroplasmosis (EP) testing for horses that have been in Texas or New Mexico.

The World Organisation for Animal Health officially removed vesicular stomatitis from its list of internationally reportable diseases in 2015. To facilitate safe international movement, many countries have reduced their VS-related entry restrictions through the acceptance of a negative complement fixation test (CFT). The CFT is used to identify evidence of recent infection, with positive results persisting for several weeks to a few months.

Regarding New World screwworm, science-based protocols involving inspection, wound treatment, and systemic treatment have been used to facilitate the safe movement of horses from infested areas to free countries. When restrictions are applied, they are based on epidemiological parameters and fly-movement zones rather than political boundaries.

Because the United States is considered free of equine piroplasmosis (EP), occasional detections are generally associated with specific subpopulations. Although there was a historical outbreak of EP in Texas, the outbreak was managed, and there was no recognized persistence of the organism in the tick population. Currently, there is no evidence of a greater persistence of cases in any one geographic area; rather, detections are associated with a specific subpopulation.