UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2026 Resolution

130th Annual Meeting
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER: Publicly Accessible Equine Disease and Import Health Data

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to establish a centralized, publicly accessible Equine Disease Data Dashboard, beginning with equine infectious anemia and modeled on the existing Equine Arbovirus Dashboard. The dashboard should publish aggregated data quarterly according to a consistent, predictable schedule and include, at a minimum, the disease, number of cases and non-negative results, state or region, and reporting period. Data should be available for download in a machine-readable format, and routine aggregated data should be proactively published and maintained in a public archive rather than made available only through Freedom of Information Act requests.

USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS-VS to develop and publish aggregated equine import and export data on a quarterly basis. Export reports should include the number of health certificates issued, purpose of movement, and country of destination. Import reports should provide monthly data, published quarterly, by port of entry, including the total number of horses by country of origin and purpose of entry, as well as non-negative test results for imported horses by disease, port of entry, and purpose of import.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry stakeholders need timely, aggregated equine disease and import data to identify trends, monitor industry health, and support sound policy decisions. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), maintains much of this information through monthly state reports submitted to the National Animal Health Reporting System, monthly reports from approximately 400 approved equine infectious anemia (EIA) laboratories, import testing conducted by the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratories, and certificates and permits processed for international equine movement.

Public access to these data is limited and inconsistent and, in the case of equine import data, largely absent. Since 2020, USDA-APHIS-VS has reported equine arboviral cases through its interactive Equine Arbovirus Dashboard, demonstrating that routine public reporting is achievable. However, EIA and equine piroplasmosis results appear only in static annual summaries, and the 2024 EIA summary was not released until September 2025, even as USDA reported continued spread among Quarter Horse racehorses. Import and export certificate counts and non-negative import test results are not routinely published. Furthermore, as noted in United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Resolution 9 of 2024, stakeholders have relied on Freedom of Information Act requests for basic import and export data that USDA-APHIS-VS has been unable to provide. Proactive publication of these data would reduce reliance on this request-driven approach and lessen the associated administrative workload for USDA.

This request reflects USAHA's sustained interest in improving access to federal equine health data, including Resolution 7 of 2024, which requested a comprehensive review of equine import and export services and movement data trends; Resolution 15 of 2022, which addressed the release of contagious equine metritis test results through official channels; and Resolution 19 of 2022, which urged USDA to conduct a new National Animal Health Monitoring System equine study.