Update on National Veterinary Accreditation Program

In the January-February 2010 Accredited Veterinarian newsletter, the changes in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program were discussed. Both the State and Federal offices received a lot of phone calls from vets regarding the program. Here are some important reminders.

If you are currently accredited...

Every currently accredited veterinarian MUST complete a new Veterinary Accreditation Application (VS Form 1-36A) in order to retain his or her accreditation. Please go to the APHIS website (www.aphis.usda.gov) to “Find vet accreditation information” to find application forms, directions and information about the changes. When you complete the new application form to elect to continue as an accredited veterinarian, you must send the form by mail, fax, or email to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program as follows: (DO NOT SUBMIT TO YOUR VETERINARY SERVICES AREA OFFICE. DO NOT SUBMIT TO THE DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY)

Mailing Address: USDA/APHIS/VS National Veterinary Accreditation Program 4700 River Road, Unit 64 Riverdale, MD 20737

Email: nvap@usda.gov Ph: (301) 734-6827 Fax: (301) 734-3641 or (301) 734-0686

At this time veterinarians DO NOT have a National Veterinary Accreditation number. Each accredited veterinarian will be assigned a National Accreditation Number. This number will be used for the following:

1. Accessing supplemental training modules
2. Completing official documents that require a National Accreditation Number
3. Helping identify your record in the National Accreditation database

You will receive notification of your new National Veterinary Accreditation number from the National Veterinary Accreditation Program after your VS Form 1-36A electing to participate as an accredited veterinarian is received and processed by the National Veterinary Accreditation Program staff. Although you are encouraged to submit your form as soon as possible, please do not expect to hear back from them for a few months.

If you are currently accredited, the VS Form 1-36A is used to elect to continue your participation as an accredited veterinarian AND to update your information (name change, address change, business address change, etc). Do not use any other form to update any changes in your information for veterinary accreditation.

If you have colleagues who have never been accredited and want to apply for accreditation, they should go to the APHIS website (www.aphis.usda.gov) to “Find vet accreditation information” and review the information under “Applying for Veterinary Accreditation for the First Time”. Veterinarians who want to apply for accreditation for the first time can also contact the USDA Area Office at:

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services 500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor Albany, NY 12205 (518) 218-7540

-Article submitted by Dr. Rochelle Woods, USDA
NYSHHAP—New York State Horse Health Assurance Program

The NYSHHAP, a voluntary certification program, is designed to promote and teach a pro-active approach to equine health, care, and welfare through the use of certain “best management practices.”

The NYS Dept of Ag & Market’s Division of Animal Industry offers this wellness program which addresses both equine health and equine facility management issues. The incorporation of best management practices in a farm’s daily routine corrects minor problems before they becomes larger, more expensive issues. Wellness involves helping your horse maintain a healthy lifestyle and prevents problems before they start.

The equine industry has unique challenges due to:

- Increasing human traffic in equine facilities
- Increasing international and interstate travel of animals
- Increasing importation of animals
- Decreasing quarantine space for newly purchased animals
- Decreasing options for manure disposal

The program identifies risk areas common to all equine operations including farm operations, horse care, and personnel management. The farm’s plan focuses on animal health, animal/human traffic patterns, commodities, manure, and pastures. A resource manual is available to assist with risk identification and plan creation. Within the Standards and Certification Manual, each of these areas of risk is addressed in a section with a set of standards. After each standard, an explanation of the potential hazard it attempts to eliminate is provided.

The program encourages the operation’s veterinarian to help implement the plan and act as an information source. The farm must be in 100% compliance with the basic equine management standards to be certified, and once certified, must pass an annual inspection to maintain its enrollment in the program. The Standards and Certification Manual is provided free to anyone requesting a copy as well as an Addendum of Sample Guidelines which provides written protocols for implementing some of the standards.

Certification Process: The certification process involves the evaluation of each equine operation against the standards outlined in the Standards and Certification Manual. Steps to certification include the following:

- Request the Standards and Certification Manual from the NYSHHAP Coordinator, Dr. Lyda W. Denney at lyda.denney@agmkt.state.ny.us or call 315-430-2529
- Complete the "Certification Self Study" form included in the manual on pg. 45 and mail it to: Dr. Lyda W. Denney, NYSHHAP COORDINATOR P.O. Box 809 Vernon, NY 13476
- Wait for contact by the NYSHHAP Coordinator for a certification visit with the NYSHHAP Coordinator
- Receive certification acknowledging the achievement at the time of the operation visit
Recognition: The Division of Animal Industry will provide a NYSHHAP "Certified Member" recognition sign, a "Biosecurity" sign, a certificate acknowledging exceptional commitment to horse health management, and a notebook containing educational materials. A "Microchip Benefit" is available allowing member operations a supply of microchips. The microchip yields both a unique identification number as well as the animal’s temperature when read!

We encourage horse operations, large and small, private and commercial to consider participating in the New York State Horse Health Assurance program. It provides a mechanism to manage a number of health risks associated with equine populations. Your participation and input will also drive the evolution of the program to better respond to future challenges. You may receive further information by contacting Dr. Lyda Denney at 315-430-2529, e-mail lyda.denney@agmkt.state.ny.us

Accredited Vet Supplies

Tuberculin PPD— We are still trying to be cautious of the volume that we have in stock in our office. Please continue to notify our office in advance when you anticipate a large herd TB test. Also, for your convenience, we now carry the tuberculin in 5, 40 and 100 dose vials.

Coggins Test Record Form (VS 10-11) — For those equine vets that are starting to use those forms, we have had some conflicting reports about the national supply of those forms. Our office has an ample supply at this time. Please order only what you anticipate what you will need for this spring. We will let you know if there is a sudden shortage of those forms.

Accredited Veterinarian’s Supply Request Form (AI-608) — This form has changed its look slightly. It lists the same items but has been reorganized to make ordering easier for you or your office manager to complete.

If you have any questions about any of these accredited vet supply updates, please contact Gerard or Mary Beth at (518) 457-1709.
**Modifications Made to Bovine TB Eradication Program**

*Editor's Note:* The following is a press release from the USDA-APHIS Website from April 15, 2010. It discusses the changes that are being made to the Bovine TB Eradication Program.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) yesterday issued a Federal Order modifying certain elements of the bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication program. The changes will better allow the program to meet the circumstances and need of today’s producers.

“The bovine tuberculosis program has been very successful at reducing the disease in this country,” said John Clifford, chief veterinary officer for APHIS. “The program’s regulations have been effective when the disease was widespread. But today, the disease is mostly eliminated, except for sporadic outbreaks. There’s no longer a good reason for certain movement restrictions on animals unaffected by the disease, just because TB has been found elsewhere in the state. We are updating the TB program to reflect today’s reality.”

Under the new Federal Order, it will be easier for producers not affected by TB to move their animals interstate, even if TB is present in their state. Specifically, the Federal Order:

- ends the automatic downgrade of an accredited free state or zone to a modified accredited advanced state or zone when TB-affected herds are found, as long as the state meets certain criteria for preventing the spread of the disease
- ends movement restrictions for cattle and bison that are not known to be infected with or exposed to TB from modified accredited advanced states or zones, as long as the state meets certain criteria for preventing the spread of the disease
- provides for increased surveillance in part or all of a state or zone and/or movement restriction as required by the APHIS Administrator to address risks from TB in wildlife or under other circumstances to prevent the spread of TB.

The Federal Order is effective for two years beginning April 15, 2010, unless it is extended by APHIS or superseded by revisions to the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Federal Order is only the first step towards updating the TB program, which is consistent with the proposed changes set out in the concept paper USDA published in October 2009. As USDA continues to move forward with developing new regulations for the TB program, we will continue to engage stakeholders and other interested parties for input.

Bovine TB is a contagious and infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis.* It affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats, human and other warm-blooded species and can be fatal. While USDA and the states have robust surveillance and control measure in place for TB, outbreaks of the disease are costly to both producers and the government. Since 2002, USDA has spent approximately $90 million on TB control activities and owner indemnification.

For more about the Federal Order, [CLICK HERE.](#)
**Bushmeat Diseases Entering New York**

*Editor's Note: The following article came from Discovery News and was also reported through the USAHA website. The NYSDAM-DAI has no connection to the activities listed below, however I thought it may be of interest to accredited veterinarians in New York State and surrounding areas. (Special thanks to Kevin Schafer Photography)*

Officials in New York have identified two strains of simian foamy virus in wildlife imported as food—known as “bushmeat” - from three primate species: two mangabey monkeys and a chimpanzee, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). All of these animals are also endangered.

Preliminary studies show that humans can contract simian foamy virus, but its long-term effects remain unknown. Could another AIDS-like epidemic therefore be on the horizon? The WCS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others are working now to prevent that from happening. A symposium called “Wildlife Conservation and Human Health” is talking place today (4/15/2010) at Rockefeller University.

“This project is part of WCS’s ‘One World One Health’ initiative, which addresses the health needs of humans and wildlife locally and globally, “ said Steven Sanderson, president and CEO of WCS. “WCS has pioneered the practice of helping governments around the world find potential human public health threats by monitoring and caring for wildlife populations in their habitats.”

Inspection and health officials have sized hundred of samples of wildlife and wildlife products coming through luggage and mail parcels through main entry points for both people and goods into New York City and the United States. Sample have been taken from at least 14 species, including great apes, monkeys, rodents and bats.

In addition to the simian foamy virus, the officials have also been testing for flavivirus and filovirus, but those results haven’t been released yet. More than 70% of zoonoses, which are diseases that affect both animals and humans, stem from human contact with wildlife.

“The movement and mixing of human, wildlife, and domestic animals as part of the illegal global wildlife trade encourages transmission of disease and emergence of novel pathogens,” said William Karesh of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Global Health Program.


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**The Fairs are Coming, the Fairs are Coming!**

The 2010 Fair Season is coming up fast. County fairs will be starting soon. The New York State Fair kicks off at the end of August. With the advent of fair season comes health certificates, rabies vaccination, official identification of exhibition animals and other required testing. It is important for accredited veterinarians to be up to speed on what is required for these fairbound animals and owners to enter the fairgrounds. In the coming weeks we will be putting out a mini-newsletter that discusses “All Things Fairs.” Be sure to check out our current fair information at: [http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/AIHome.html](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/AIHome.html) under “County and State Fair Information”.

**EHV-1 Discoveries in NJ, MA, NY**

EHV-1 has been in the news lately in the Northeastern part of the United States. New Jersey and Massachusetts have reported cases of horses showing neurologic signs. Testing for EHV-1 has confirmed EHV-1. For the press releases about the New Jersey and Massachusetts EHV-1 cases:

For NJ: [www.state.nj.us/agriculture/index.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/index.shtml) and look under “HOT TOPICS”

For MA: [www.mass.gov/agr/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/index.htm) and look under “News and Alerts”

Last week the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Animal Industry, received word from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that a young filly entered New York State from New Jersey after testing positive for EHV-1. The filly was located and a quarantine was placed upon the filly and 25 other horses that are located at the same premises. Strict biosecurity measures are in place. Daily temperatures are being taken as well as daily monitoring of the overall health of the horses. Fortunately none of the exposed horses as well as the filly are showing signs of illness or fever at this time.

It is important for equine vets to remember that EHV-1 testing is not straightforward. As with other herpes viral infections, a latent or “carrier” state can develop. Carrier animals can cloud the course of an outbreak. Further, many adult horses have already been exposed to a strain of EHV so that is important to consider when testing the horse. You may want to consult with a diagnostic lab before deciding upon which EHV test to run. There are questions surrounding vaccine efficacy for EHV-1-Neuro so biosecurity is critically important.

Consider including EHV-1 infection on your differential list if clinical signs suggest so and there is history of travel or new additions to the farm. Remember, EHV-1 is a reportable disease in New York State. If you suspect that a horse has EHV, please contact the Division of Animal Industry at (518)457-3502.

For more information on EHV, go to: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/index.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/index.htm)

**FDA—Center for Veterinary Medicine Website**

The FDA—Center for Veterinary Medicine has an extensive website filled with helpful links for the veterinary practitioner. The FDA—CVM is not just involved with drug residue violations. The agency has information about the development and approval process of animal drugs and feeds. They are the reporting agency for adverse drug events and product safety recalls. Their website has lists of approved animal drug products, also known as the “Green Book.” Practitioners can sign up for email updates sent directly from the FDA-CVM about pet food recalls, recently approved animal drugs, newly published research and much more. There is a lot more content on their website but this is just a small snapshot of what is available. It is well worth taking some time to check out their website. [http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm)

If you need to contact the Center for Veterinary Medicine directly, you can reach them at: (240) 276–9300 or by email at [AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov)