



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: Radiological Incident Response and Resources

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With more than 100 fixed nuclear facilities nationwide, states must be prepared to assist citizens in the event of a site emergency. Public health and other partners will look to animal/agricultural responders for resources needed for pets and service animals. State animal/agriculture emergency planners have identified a severe lack of these resources and therefore a serious gap in our national animal response capability.

Since October, 2006, the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act has required local and state emergency plans to include citizens with pets and service animals before, during, and after disasters of all types. Citizens evacuated during a radiation emergency event arriving at reception centers with their pets and service animals will require triage, radiation monitoring, external decontamination, and post-decontamination services and support. Trained personnel, standardized protocols and equipment (including personal protective equipment) must be in place to provide these services. Because only a very limited number of persons have received animal decontamination training at both state and federal levels, resources would be immediately overwhelmed in a disaster.

The Department of Health and Human Services and National Disaster Management System (HHS/NDMS) have proven experience at the development and maintenance of personnel resources such as the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) to assist states. We believe HHS/NDMS/NVRT provides the ideal solution to fill this critical response gap by development of the following resources: caches of equipment to include mobile animal decontamination portals, personnel teams with current training in animal decontamination techniques, and delivery of guidance and standardized training that can build local response capability to assist animal/agricultural and public health emergency responders and citizens at local, state and federal levels.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and maintain personnel, equipment, and training resources, especially those needed for pet and service animal decontamination, to supplement state animal response in radiation emergencies and all-hazards events.