



June 2, 2010

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Daniel Van Heeckeren, M.D.
Delegate OSMA
600 Battles Road
Gate Mills, OH 44040

Dear Dr. Van Heeckeren,

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recently has been made aware of a resolution affecting the veterinary medical profession that will be considered by the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates at its June 13, 2010 meeting.

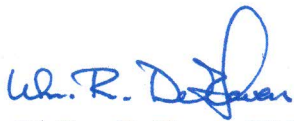
I am writing to you to urge inclusion of an amendment (Attachment A) to Resolution 519, titled "Global Tracking System of Zoonotic Diseases," which would name the AVMA as a partner in zoonotic disease efforts. As our nation's premier animal health experts, the AVMA would welcome the opportunity to work as an equal partner with our human medical colleagues – the AMA – in the development and implementation of a centralized, comprehensive zoonotic disease surveillance system. As our nation's animal health experts and as champions of the One Health concept, the AVMA asserts that veterinary medical expertise is paramount in matters related to zoonotic diseases, illustrated in the following sample of relevant activities:

- Expertise of veterinarians in the development and implementation of global zoonotic disease programs such as the WHO, FAO, OIE Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses (GLEWS) and the FAO Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES), and Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance
- Veterinarian involvement in nationwide programs including ArboNet and the National Biosurveillance Integration System
- AVMA's participation in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee
- Recognition of the AVMA's Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams by the Department of Health and Human Services as a local- and state-based resource that can assess on-the-ground zoonotic disease threats in emergencies
- Veterinarian oversight over U.S. national animal disease eradication efforts including brucellosis, tuberculosis, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- Continued advocacy for funding for more robust, nationwide surveillance strategies including comprehensive animal traceability to mitigate animal disease outbreaks, and a national zoonotic infectious disease surveillance system

The concept of AVMA partnership with the AMA is not new, yet it underscores the continued critical need to highlight the importance of the One Health concept. In June 2007, the AMA HOD unanimously approved the policy H-440.871, Collaboration Between Human and Veterinary Medicine, emphasizing the need for closer collaboration between human medical and veterinary medical professionals. Since the AMA's partnership with the AVMA started in 2007 within the One Health Initiative Task Force, outstanding collaborative opportunities have emerged between the two organizations, ranging from the sharing of successful leadership development strategy approaches and membership initiatives, to Association-recognized support for emergency preparedness and response initiatives. We hope that these partnerships, and the value that results from them, continue to thrive.

The AVMA certainly appreciates the opportunity to comment on the AMA's resolution, and it looks forward to future interaction with the AMA on this and other timely medical challenges and opportunities. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Ron DeHaven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
CEO and Executive Vice President

c: Dr. Michael Maves, CEO and Executive Vice President, AMA
Dr. Barry Dickinson, Director, Science Policy, AMA