



# NAIA

## Animal Policy Review

*A publication of the National Animal Interest Alliance dedicated to analysis of legislation, regulations, and policies that affect animals and animal owners*

Summer-Fall 2011

© 2011 NAIA

### HR 1513 ends vital research using chimps

Representative Roscoe Bartlett introduced HR 1513 on April 13, 2011, to end the use of chimpanzees in biomedical research, a move that could damage efforts to find a vaccine for hepatitis C and stall other research designed to benefit humans and non-human primates. Senator Maria Cantwell introduced companion bill S 810 the same day.

Hepatitis C virus is the leading cause of liver failure and the fastest-growing cause of liver cancer in the US.(1) and infects about 170 million people worldwide. Chimpanzees are the only other animal known to become chronically infected with hepatitis C, so scientists have used the apes to learn about the disease and develop possible treatments. In addition to pioneering work on hepa-

titis C, chimpanzees have also contributed to successful development of vaccines for hepatitis A and B viruses (2) and

are currently used in research on respiratory syncytial virus. RSV is the most common cause of pneumonia in children under one year of age and is increasingly recognized as a problem for elderly adults.(3) Chimpanzee studies also contributed to our early understanding of HIV infection although it was later determined that rhesus macaque monkeys provided a better research model of the disease itself.

HR 1513 and S 810 would arrest this work and ban all “invasive” research on great apes – chimpan-

zees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans, and gibbons – even

*Continued on page 4*



**Chimpanzees are used in vital research on Hepatitis C and other diseases that affect humans and wild primates as well.**

### USDA fashions dog import rules; seeks public comment by October 31

Americans have imported dogs into the United States for more than two centuries. Arriving as family members, working animals, or as part of a breeding program, dogs have always played their special role in America’s melting pot, and our laws have recognized this.

Current federal law regulates wholesale production of dogs raised for resale in the US to assure consumers that the puppies they buy are raised in kennels that meet basic standards of housing and care.

But over the last decade, there has been a massive increase in the number of dogs imported into the country for the purpose of resale, both for retail and adoption transfers. These dogs commonly arrive without health certificates, from parts of the world that are

*Continued on page 3*



**Tens of thousands of dogs enter the US every year for resale (including adoption), many of them carrying diseases and parasites and lacking health certificates.**

### Contents

HR 1513 ends vital research using chimps	Page 1
USDA fashions dog import rules; seeks public comment by October 31	Page 1
Federal report confirms fears: GAO advocates action to stop horse abandonment and abuse	Page 5
NAIA celebrates purebred dogs and breeders at November conference	Page 8
Horse industry acts quickly to contain deadly neurological virus outbreak	Page 9
Egg producers get concessions from HSUS	Page 9



---

### NAIA Animal Policy Review

Norma Bennett Woolf, editor

*NAIA Animal Policy Review* is published periodically; all contents © 2011 NAIA

---

NAIA supports the responsible and humane use of animals for food, clothing, medical research, companionship, assistance, recreation, entertainment and education. For more information about NAIA and our mission to support responsible animal ownership, go to [www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org) and [www.naiatrust.org](http://www.naiatrust.org)



### NAIA Board of Directors

**Thomas L. Albert**, Vice President, Government Relations, Feld Entertainment, Inc.

**Lance H. Baumgard**, PhD, Assoc. Professor, Nutrition & Physiology, Dept. of Animal Science, Iowa State Univ.

**Sharon Beck**, 4th generation cattle rancher & co-chair of the Wolf Task Force for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

**Nancy C. Campbell**, Purebred dogs, legislation, rescue, health & welfare

**John T. Connolly**, Respected AKC dog show judge, past president Boxer Club of America

**Anne Edwards**, Pedigreed cats & cat welfare

**Marty Greer**, DVM, JD, Canine reproduction & animal law, International Canine Semen Bank-Wisconsin

**Gene Gregory**, President & CEO, United Egg Producers

**Donna Herzig**, Attorney & advocate for responsible pet legislation

**Larry S. Katz**, PhD, Professor, Animal Sciences, Director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Rutgers Univ.

**Patte Klecan**, Pet care business & professions outreach

**Kenneth A. Marden**, Working dogs & canine sports

**Paul Mundell**, National Director of Canine Programs, Canine Companions for Independence

**L. Gabriel Navar**, PhD, Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Physiology, Co-Director, Hypertension & Renal Center of Excellence

**Cindy Schonholtz**, Director of Industry Outreach, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

**John Richard Schrock**, PhD, Professor of Biology & Director of Biology Education, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas

**Robert C. Speth**, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology, Univ. of Mississippi, Fellow of the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science

**Sharon K. Steckler**, Attorney & long time animal welfare advocate

**Patti Strand**, NAIA founder, purebred dog enthusiast, author & commentator on responsible pet ownership

**Holly Stump**, Biologist, purebred dogs, breed specific legislation, canine therapy work

**Edward J. Walsh**, PhD, Director, Developmental Auditory Physiology Laboratory, Boys Town National Research Hospital & Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University School of Medicine

# USDA fashions dog import rules; seeks public comment by October 31

*Continued from page 1*

rife with diseases that pose risks to both dogs and humans. Congress recognized the need to regulate these imports in the 2008 farm bill, and USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service wants public comments to help the agency finalize regulations to implement this congressional mandate.

## The problem

According to the US Public Health Service, Chicago O'Hare was the destination airport for 10,125 dogs imported in 2006, over half of which were not vaccinated. That same year, a multi-agency sting operation revealed massive smuggling of dogs into the US, leading scientists from the Centers for Disease Control to estimate that more than 199,000 dogs – 38,100 unvaccinated – had come into the country through the Mexican border in 2006 alone.

This unprecedented surge in foreign dogs can be broken down into several categories:

- ⊙ Dogs deliberately bred in Europe for the US commercial pet trade, coming from countries where there are few – if any – regulations on dog breeding. Unlike the US, where breed enthusiasts have worked for several decades to reduce genetic diseases, few of these dogs come from lines that are tested for health, and they often arrive with undisclosed communicable diseases and genetic defects.
- ⊙ “Roadside dealers” trading in dogs that come mostly from Mexico. These dogs – some deliberately bred, others street dogs – are typically smuggled in. Regularly unvaccinated, they end up sold through flea markets or out of the backs of vans in parking lots, or they become part of the rescue or shelter pet trade business. Like their European counterparts, they often carry undisclosed diseases and health problems.
- ⊙ Street dogs from Puerto Rico, Asia, and Caribbean nations: thousands of dogs that are flown to the continental US and distributed to non-traditional shelters, rescue groups, and pet supply super stores each year.

## Putting teeth in import regulations

The idea that we'd have thousands of dogs pouring in from all over the world to be sold or adopted to American consumers was inconceivable just a decade ago. US laws regarding canine importation have always been geared toward privately owned dogs: US citizens who travel with



**The USDA rules apply only to those who import dogs for transfer to another person. Individuals who import dogs for their own use as working, show, or performance dogs or as pets will not be affected.**

their pets, working dogs brought over for training, or single dogs imported by individuals to become household pets or breeding stock.

But things are starting to change. To keep up with the burgeoning global pet market, the Food, Conservation, and Energy act of 2008 (widely referred to as the 2008 Farm Bill), added a new section to the Animal Welfare Act restricting the importation of certain live dogs. USDA/APHIS has drafted proposed rules in order to implement this amendment, and they are asking for comments.

APHIS's proposed rules are as simple and straightforward as they are necessary.

First and most important, is the requirement of an import permit issued by APHIS for dogs over the age of six months that are entering the US for resale, research, or veterinary treatment. This permit requires individuals importing dogs to identify themselves and their dogs, to list ports of departure and arrival, and to specify the date of arrival into the US. Dogs under the age of six months cannot be imported for resale at all.

The statute(1) defines the term “resale” to include any transfer of ownership or control of a dog to another person for more than de minimis consideration. This does not limit the ability of an individual to import a dog under the age of six months for his own use (e.g. as a companion animal or working dog or for a breeding program). These rules apply to people who bring dogs into the country with the intention of transferring them to yet-unnamed consumers.

These rules also place more stringent health requirements on dogs being imported and provide penalties for noncompli-

*Continued on page 8*



# HR 1513 ends vital research using chimps

*Continued from page 1*

though only chimpanzees are currently used in biomedical investigations in the US. The legislation also requires that chimpanzees either owned by or under the control of the federal government be retired to government-approved nonprofit sanctuaries. These retirement centers must meet government specifications and cannot breed the animals, allow human-and-chimpanzee contact, conduct commercial activity, or use the animals for entertainment.



Backed by groups that oppose the use of animals in research, the legislation defines ‘invasive research’ as “any research that may cause death, pain, injury, distress, fear, or trauma” to the animal. According to this legislative definition, “invasive research” includes testing drugs or other substances; performing surgery; using restraint, tranquilizers, or anesthesia; and isolation or other actions that may be considered detrimental to the psychological well being of the animal. The only allowed activities are those involving observation of the animals’ natural or voluntary behavior, veterinary examinations, and post-mortem exams.

Supporters of the bills often make the point that European countries have banned the use of chimpanzees in research except in cases of a human pandemic or for the benefit of the animals themselves. However, they fail to mention that some European pharmaceutical companies now outsource studies requiring chimpanzees to the US. If the US abandons chimpanzee research, the only remaining site in the world for chimpanzee studies would be the Primate Center in Franceville, Gabon, which has about 70 animals.

Bills similar to HR 1513 and S 810 have failed in the past. The debate over the use of chimpanzees heated up again in 2010 when the National Institutes of Health proposed to move 176 chimpanzees from a research reserve colony in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. In the wake of an uproar by the Humane Society of the US and other organizations, NIH postponed the transfer and asked the Institute of Medicine to prepare a report on the need for chimpanzees in biomedical and behavioral studies. A branch of the independent National Academies of Science, IOM has been asked to determine whether chimpanzees have characteristics that make them the best research model for these purposes and to explore the current and anticipated alternatives to their use. The most recent set of open meetings by the panel took

place on August 11-12; the agenda included presentations about using chimpanzees for research discoveries and for proving the safety and efficacy of new vaccines and therapies. The IOM report is due at the end of this year.

IOM named the scientists on its investigative panel in May. Shortly thereafter, the Humane Society of the US complained that the committee was slanted towards proponents of chimpanzee research and objected to three committee members (4): Alan Leshner, executive director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Leticia Medina of Abbott Laboratories, and John Stobo, overseer of health sciences and services for the University of California. AAAS opposed a previous legislative attempt to ban chimp research, Medina had used chimps in hepatitis C research, and UC uses animals in research. The three are no longer on the committee.

The August weekend meetings were devoted to scientific presentations; the agenda included discussion of the following questions:

- In the event of a public health emergency, what would the consequences be if there were no chimpanzees available for biomedical research?
- What would the impact be if chimpanzees were unavailable for testing during drug development and research?
- How long would it take for science to catch up if the chimpanzee were no longer available?

The panel also set aside one hour for public comment. Those registered to speak about the value of chimpanzees as research models included representatives of the American Physiological Society, the National Association for Biomedical Research, and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. A number of groups that oppose the use of chimpanzees in research, including People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Humane Society of the US, In Defense of Animals, and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society also requested time to speak.

## Opposition to HR 1513 and S 810

“The IOM study is expected to provide an informed assessment of current needs for chimpanzees in research,” according to Alice Ra’anan, Director of Government Relations and Science Policy, for the American Physiological Society. “In the meantime, the American Physiological Society has taken the position that HR 1513 and S 810 are premature and are based on false assertions about the care and treatment of chimpanzees in research settings. In addition, the bills use an overly broad definition of what constitutes ‘invasive’ research; and fail to take into account scientific

*Continued on page 6*

# Federal report confirms fears

## **GAO advocates action to stop horse abandonment and abuse**

Citing an increase in reports of horse abandonment and abuse since the USDA pulled inspectors from processing plants in 2006 and the remaining plants closed in 2007, the US Government Accountability Office summarized the status of unwanted horses in the US in a June 2011 report titled *Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences from Cessation of Domestic Slaughter*.<sup>(1)</sup>

The unintended consequences recorded in the GAO report parallel the alarm expressed by many horse owners, animal welfare organizations, horsemen's associations, veterinarians, and animal rescue groups during the various campaigns to stop domestic horse processing and eliminate the shipment of horses to foreign plants.<sup>(2)</sup>

The report covers the effect on the US horse market since domestic processing for human consumption ended, including the impact on horse welfare and on state and local governments, the environment, and animal welfare organizations. It also details challenges to USDA's oversight of the transport and welfare of US horses exported for processing. GAO based its conclusions on government records of horse shipments, meetings with and reports from state veterinarians in 17 states with high horse populations, and information from the AVMA and the American Association of Equine Veterinarians, various relevant state and federal officials and agencies, tribal organizations, horse welfare groups, and animal rights organizations.

Montana Senator Max Baucus requested the report in a 2009 Agriculture bill because of concerns that termination of horse processing was harming Montana ranchers and horse welfare. On June 29, 2011, a week after the GAO released the report, Baucus urged the end of a ban on domestic horse processing.

"The ban just doesn't make any sense, and this report proves it," Baucus said in a news release.<sup>(3)</sup> "Injured or sick horses are having to suffer even more by traveling long distances only to be put down in places where they aren't protected by American humane standards. And farmers and ranchers are suffering from fewer sales and lower prices, while we send jobs to Canada and Mexico. That's not right for our economy and it's not right for our horses."



## **Some report findings**

The campaign to close horse processing plants was a well-intentioned attempt to save horses from abuse, but it has had the opposite effect. Since the closings, the

number of horses sold for processing has not declined, it has simply shifted from US plants to destinations in Canada and Mexico. At the same time, the economic downturn has increased the number of unwanted horses; without domestic processing plants and the auction sales and trucking businesses that support the industry, owners are forced to keep horses they can't afford or to pay for euthanasia and carcass removal. The value of low-end horses has slipped as much as 20 percent in some areas, leaving owners unable to sell horses that they no longer want, need, or are able to manage. Many owners try to place the horses themselves or look for a sanctuary to take the animals, but most sanctuaries are completely or nearly full and many face their own economic woes. When all else fails, some owners turn their horses loose on public lands where the animals cannot fend for themselves and may be harassed by wild herds or spread equine diseases. The situation is particularly dire on Native American reservations where thousands of feral horses have seriously degraded the environment.

In addition to the economic pressures causing an increase in unwanted horses, horses that are sold for processing now travel longer distances to Canada and Mexico, journeys that can add to discomfort or neglect for the animals. USDA regulates transport of horses headed directly to processing

*Continued on page 10*

"The ban just doesn't make any sense, and this report proves it," (Senator Max) Baucus said in a news release.<sup>(3)</sup> "Injured or sick horses are having to suffer even more by traveling long distances only to be put down in places where they aren't protected by American humane standards. And farmers and ranchers are suffering from fewer sales and lower prices, while we send jobs to Canada and Mexico. That's not right for our economy and it's not right for our horses."

# HR 1513 ends vital research using chimps

*Continued from page 4*

needs for chimpanzee studies of human and animal diseases.”

The APS asked Representative Bartlett to withdraw his sponsorship of HR 1513. In a letter dated June 15, 2011, APS president Joey P. Granger PhD wrote:

*“The scientific community takes the ethical implications of all animal research seriously, but the level of scrutiny is particularly high when the research involves chimpanzees. Nevertheless, most scientists concur that research with animals including chimpanzees remains a crucial part of our efforts to understand, prevent, treat, and cure disease. Chimpanzee research has contributed to important medical advances, notably vaccines against hepatitis A and B as well as the development of monoclonal antibody therapies that boost the body’s ability to fight disease. The immune system of chimpanzees has important similarities to the human immune system, which makes them important for research on diseases such as malaria, human cytomegalovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus.”*

Granger also noted that research with chimpanzees helps great apes.

*“For example, in February of this year, chimpanzee safety and efficacy tests for an Ebola virus vaccine were begun in the hopes of finding a way to protect wild chimpanzee and gorilla populations from this devastating disease.(5) Studies in captive chimpanzees are also planned for vaccines and treatments against measles, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV)(6), and influenza, which also threaten wild apes. These efforts are taking place under the auspices of the VaccinApe project (www.VaccinApe.org). However, HR 1513*

*would even prevent the development of vaccines needed for wild ape conservation.”*

The APS concluded its letter by urging Congress to “wait for the IOM findings before addressing questions related to great apes in research.” APS also sent similar letters to Senator Cantwell and to all the House and Senate co-sponsors of the legislation.

The National Association for Biomedical Research also supports the use of chimpanzees in research. In a fact sheet on the organization website, NABR states:

*“Chimpanzees remain an invaluable resource, and are unique because they are susceptible to many major health risks for humans, and therefore play a critical role in research on hepatitis C, malaria, and HIV. Chimpanzees are making important contributions towards stem cell research and the fight against cancer. Chimpanzees are also the closest model for human cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection, which according to the CDC, is the most common congenital infection in the United States, and causes one child to become disabled every hour.”(7)*

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology has also sent letters asking members of Congress to oppose these bills, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science supported research with chimpanzees in a statement issued in April 2009.(8)

## Chimpanzees in research

There are about 1000 chimpanzees in laboratories in the US, most of them in four research facilities. In addition, the Alamogordo Primate Facility in New Mexico has 176 semi-retired chimpanzees, and Chimp Haven, the government-

*Continued on page 7*

## Activists seek change in chimp status

Activists have not limited their efforts to end the use of chimpanzees in research to bills pending in Congress. In addition to support for HB 1513 and S 810, the Humane Society of the US and other groups have petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify captive chimpanzees in the US as endangered and thereby ban use of the animals as pets or performers, in research, and on display in non-accredited roadside zoos.

The chimps are now considered threatened, a category that allows scientists to use them for research that benefits both human and non-human primates and permits others to use the animals in movies, stage shows, and advertising campaigns. If they are reclassified as endangered, research on hepatitis C and other diseases will be delayed, other uses will be prohibited, and the animals would be placed in sanctuaries or accredited zoos.

As required by law, the agency seeks scientific and commercial data and other factual information to aid in making a decision. Docket number is FWS-R9-ES-2010-0086; comments may be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!home> until October 31, 2011.

# HR 1513 ends vital research using chimps

*Continued from page 6*

contract sanctuary for retired research chimps in Louisiana, has 122.(9) Most of the animals are involved in hepatitis C research and some are used in studies of respiratory syncytial virus, diabetes, and in the development of monoclonal antibodies for lymphoma.

Existing laws and regulations strictly protect the welfare of these animals. The US Department of Agriculture regulates and inspects animals in laboratories through the Animal Welfare Act, and the Department of Health and Human Services enforces regulations under the Health Research Extension Act. Institutions using animals also voluntarily submit to inspection by the nongovernmental Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. The regulations and inspections require that researchers ensure that the physical and psychological wellbeing of non-human primates meet the highest standards.

In addition to the welfare rules, the regulations require research institutions to follow ethical guidelines for designing and implementing research protocols. Scientists who want to use the chimps in a study or test must submit a plan describing the protocol, the number of animals, and any special considerations and submit that plan to an Institutional Care and Use Committee for review.

Chimpanzees may live for 50 years or more in captivity, and the government has accepted responsibility through the National Institutes of Health for the care of NIH-owned chimpanzees once they are retired from research. Because of the long life span and the cost of housing retired animals, NIH placed a moratorium on breeding chimpanzees owned or supported by the National Center for Research Resources in 1995. (This moratorium does not apply to other chimpanzees in the US.) In December 2000, President Bill Clinton signed the Chimpanzee Health, Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act that required development of retirement sanctuaries such as Chimp Haven. The law requires that private funds be raised for facility construction and operation.

HR 1513 has been referred to the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. S 810 has been referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

## Notes

(1) "Hepatitis C Vaccine Shows Promise in Chimpanzees," National Institutes of Health, news release, May 29, 2007.

(2) "It is well-documented that research on chimps led to the development of diagnostic tests for hepatitis A, B, and C and vaccines for both A and B. As a result of these diagnostic

tests, the spread of these diseases through blood transfusions has virtually been eliminated. Because of the vaccine, Hepatitis B is now nearly unknown in children born in the United States, and hepatitis A rates in the U.S. have declined by 92 percent since the vaccine was introduced in 1995." Testimony before the Institute of Medicine, May 26, 2011, by Kevin Kregel PhD, Professor of Integrative Physiology and Radiation Oncology at the University of Iowa, speaking for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

(3) From the CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov/rsv/>: Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a respiratory virus that infects the lungs and breathing passages. Most otherwise healthy people recover from RSV infection in 1 to 2 weeks. However, infection can be severe in some people, such as certain infants, young children, and older adults. In fact, RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia in children under one year of age in the United States. In addition, RSV is more often being recognized as an important cause of respiratory illness in older adults.

(4) Chimp committee shakeup follows humane society complaints by Jon Cohen, *Science Insider*, June 14, 2011; <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/06/chimp-committee-shakeup-follows.html?ref=hp>

(5) The VaccinApe Project (<http://www.VaccinApe.org>) reports that Ebola outbreaks are a serious problem in wild gorilla populations, sometimes killing as much as 95 percent of the population in some neighborhoods. These outbreaks also result in losses of tourism dollars and study of the animals. The project estimates that roughly one third of the world gorilla population and large numbers of chimpanzees have died and that losses could increase to one-half of the population in the next decade.

(6) This deadly AIDS-like virus has infected the chimpanzees of Gombe, Tanzania, made famous by British primate researcher Jane Goodall; "SIV strain infects Goodall chimps," *The Australian*, March 6, 2011

(7) *A Unique Biomedical Resource: The Critical Contribution Made to Biomedicine through Ethically Conducted Research with Chimpanzees*, <http://tinyurl.com/3fpa8eo>.

(8) Statement of the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on the Great Ape Protection Act, Approved by the AAAS Board of Directors 25 April 2009; <http://tinyurl.com/3kj2qys>

(9) The federal government awarded a 10-year sanctuary contract to Chimp Haven in 2002. For more information, see Report of the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Working Group, National Center for Research Resources, May 30, 2008; <http://tinyurl.com/3u4pugy>. For information about Chimp Haven, visit <http://chimphaven.org>.

## USDA fashions dog import rules

*Continued from page 3*

ance. Dogs must have health certificates and proof of rabies vaccination written in English by a licensed veterinarian, and dogs refused entry can be removed from the US or seized by an APHIS official, with the person importing the dog held liable for the cost of care.

NAIA believes that these common sense regulations are vital from both a public health and animal welfare standpoint. Currently, unvaccinated dogs are not refused entry or forced into strict quarantine; instead they are sent home with their importer who is supposed to confine the dogs according to existing laws. This isn't safe, intelligent, or humane, but under current rules, the oversight agencies have neither the resources nor authority to handle the situation any differently.

NAIA members are responding to the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules by the October 31 deadline. We know that reasonable vaccination and health requirements for dogs entering our country's resale market – and more importantly, enforcement of these requirements – are huge steps in the right direction. These proposed rules,

if enacted properly, will:

- ⊙ Reduce the risk of spreading infectious and zoonotic diseases such as distemper, parvo, canine brucellosis, and even rabies among the domestic canine, wildlife, livestock, and human populations.
- ⊙ Protect the integrity of America's ethical, dedicated breeders who have worked so hard to reduce disease and genetic problems in their bloodlines.
- ⊙ Limit the flow of puppies into this country from foreign breeders who do not abide by the same federal, state, and local regulations that are required of the US commercial pet industry.
- ⊙ Reduce the number of unethical shelters and rescues that import hot-selling puppies from foreign countries, while local dogs are euthanized for lack of a home.

### Note

(1) Section 2148 in re transportation, handling, and sale of certain animals in the Animal Welfare Act as amended by the 2008 Farm Bill, <http://tinyurl.com/3pwfe5t>

## NAIA focuses on purebred dogs and breeders in 2011 conference

Leading authorities on purebred dog health and welfare and experts on the challenges facing dogs, dog owners and dog breeders make up the speakers' panel at the NAIA 2011 conference.



*Purebred Dogs: The Next Endangered Species?* celebrates purebred dogs and the breeders who love and

nurture them. It also highlights the irresponsible tactics and practices used by groups that promote anti-breeding laws to market rescue and shelter dogs against breeds. The conference features a broad spectrum of presentations, including ...

- ☆ The development of breeds
- ☆ American dog ownership: sources, trends, and challenges
- ☆ Using coefficients to improve breed health
- ☆ A breeder's lasting affect on behavior
- ☆ Genetic tests and other tools available to modern

breeders

- ☆ A healthier respect for ovaries
- ☆ The legal and legislative challenges to purebred dogs and breeders
- ☆ Taking control of rescue dog trafficking in Connecticut
- ☆ Activist campaigns against dog ownership and breeding and
- ☆ Practical applications in service dog breeding programs

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians who attend are eligible for 12 AAVSPA approved continuing education credits.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, November 12-13. Details are available on the NAIA website at [www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org).





# Horse industry acts quickly to contain deadly neurological virus outbreak

By Cindy Schonholtz and Wendy Davis

*Equine herpes virus is endemic in the world's horse population and may cause upper respiratory symptoms commonly called rhinopneumonitis. However, a genetic variant of the virus known as equine herpes myeloencephalopathy is far more dangerous. When an outbreak of EHM occurred in the western US last spring, the horse industry promptly joined state and federal health agencies to contain the disease. This article was written in July after the outbreak was controlled.*

The first confirmed reports of horses testing positive for EHV-1 came out of the Colorado Department of Agriculture on May 13, 2011. The news that two Colorado horses that had attended the National Cutting Horse Association's Regional Championship in Ogden, Utah, on April 30-May 8 were confirmed with the neurological form of EHV-1 started a tense month in the horse world. Since that time, the horse industry has been on edge and reacting in various ways depending on the discipline and the location of the horses. The outbreak was heartbreaking for those owners of horses that came down with the neurological form of EHV-1 and especially to the owners of the 11 horses that were euthanized or died of the disease.

Nine different forms of the equine herpesvirus have been identified around the globe, with EHV-1 posing some of the most serious threats to the health of our horses and the equine industry on a whole. Prior to this outbreak of the disease in Utah, the terms equine herpesvirus, EHV-1 and EHM were foreign to many horse owners. Most were familiar with a form of the disease known as rhinopneumonitis, but not the deadly neurological variant.

The question most asked was how did this disease appear, seemingly out of nowhere? The answer: it's everywhere; we just don't see it all the time.

By the age of two, almost every horse has been infected with EHV-1 and becomes a lifelong, latent carrier of the virus. Young horses that "get the snots" when weaned, or go into training may be exhibiting the symptoms of the respiratory strain of the virus. Because it is endemic, most adult horses have been exposed to the virus and have some degree of immunity and therefore don't develop the respiratory form of the disease although they can be a source of exposure for other horses.

But these horses are not protected from EHV-1 with the genetic variant, *Equine herpes myeloencephalopathy* or EHM that causes the severe neurologic symptoms. Stress from competition, shipping, etc. can reactivate the virus and thus it seems to appear out of nowhere.

Currently used vaccines used to prevent EHV-1 related respiratory infections and abortions in mares do not protect against EHM, although high titers of the vaccines may reduce the amount of the virus shed by those vaccinated horses.

Spread of the disease can be by direct horse-to-horse contact (via respiratory tract) or indirectly by way of items used on or around infected horses. It can also become airborne. Given that the low efficacy of the vaccines on EHM, biosecurity measures and good hygiene practices are the most effective way to protect against the disease.

Some important points from this outbreak can be used by every animal industry, including:

1. Industry must be an integral part of the response to a disease outbreak.
2. State and federal animal health officials are invaluable in assisting with tracing outbreaks and reporting.
3. Misinformation runs rampant, and industry must work with animal health officials to distribute correct information.
4. Biosecurity measures should be considered in all animal facilities and at animal events whether or not there is an active disease outbreak.

## Industry response

The National Cutting Horse Association acted quickly and decisively when they learned horses that attended the Ogden event were becoming ill. NCHA immediately worked with local show organizers to cancel shows in order to slow the spread of the disease and tried to contact all exhibitors at the Ogden show so they could isolate the horses that attended and watch for symptoms on those horses and all of the horses on their premises. Organization officials also quickly contacted all state animal health officials in states where horses that attended the Ogden event returned to let them know of the outbreak.

The critical importance of NCHA's immediate action cannot be overstated. Horses at one show that began before news of the outbreak spread came down with the illness at that show, but they were added to the list of horses that needed to be watched and isolated. If any more shows had taken place before the NCHA took action, we might be writing about a larger tragedy, not containment of the occurrence.

## State and federal officials

This disease would have had a much broader effect on equine welfare and the economics of the horse industry if

*Continued on page 11*

## Federal report confirms fears

*Continued from page 5*

plants but cannot inspect horses or enforce transport regulations for horses on their way to stockyards, feedlots, or other assembly points. A rule to fix that discrepancy may be announced by the end of 2011.

USDA lacks adequate staff and funding to ensure completion and return of required owner/shipper certificates(4). The agency has an agreement with Canada that the report notes should be renegotiated and has no agreement with Mexico or Texas to enforce transport rules for horses headed south of the border. This leaves the agency with no way to accurately track the number and condition of horses leaving the country for Mexican and Canadian processing plants.

### Recommendations

The report made several recommendations to improve circumstances for horses sold to processing plants outside the US.

- ⊙ Issue the pending rule that redefines “equines for slaughter” so that USDA oversight and regulatory protections extend to feedlots, stockyards, and other gathering points.
- ⊙ Consider and implement options to leverage other agency resources to improve completion, return, and evaluation of owner/shipper certificates needed for enforcement.
- ⊙ Make sure the agreement with the Canadian government ensures that horses will be inspected and owner/shipper certificates will be completed and returned to USDA.
- ⊙ Seek a formal cooperative agreement with the Mexican government for inspection of horses sent to processing plants and for completion and return of owner/shipper certificates. If Mexico declines such an agreement, USDA should seek cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture to assure completion of the certificates for horses crossing from Texas to Mexico.

USDA responded to the recommendations in a letter dated June 20, 2011, before the report was made public. The agency agreed to issue the new rule to expand protection for horses in any part of the transportation chain as soon as the agency can complete consultation with the Tribal Nations that are experiencing widespread environmental destruction from large numbers of abandoned horses.(5)

The agency is also training additional personnel from the veterinary services division to help with enforcement at Texas crossings into Mexico and plans to expand administrative staff training as funding permits in 2012. They have also agreed to seek necessary changes in the agreement with

Canada and to try to negotiate an agreement with Mexico.

### Reactions to the report

Noting that horse processing is not an ideal solution for unwanted horses, the American Association of Equine Practitioners agreed with the GAO report about the unintended consequences of closing the industry in the US. AAEP president William Moyer, DVM, said that the veterinary organization supports return of funding for inspectors to USDA and urges the equine industry to maintain its focus on reducing the number of unwanted horses. Moyer also said that if Congress bans the transport of horses from the US to foreign processing plants without providing infrastructure and funding for the care of unwanted horses, animals will continue to suffer.(6)

### Notes

(1) Commissioned by Congress, the 68 page report can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11228.pdf>

(2) As noted in the Spring issue of *NAIA Animal Policy Review*: “The website [Amillionhorses.com](http://Amillionhorses.com) chronicles the plight of horses caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place, horses deserted because owners can no longer feed them, horse rescues inundated with animals they cannot afford to care for, horses starving and sick and injured. A compilation of data and articles that chart the growing dilemma facing horses and horse owners, the site notes that the loss of processing plants, the rise in costs for horse care, and the economic crisis in the country have resulted in an increase in horse abuse, neglect, and abandonment.”

(3) “Baucus Urges End to Slaughter Ban that Hurts Horses, Farmers, Ranchers,” [http://baucus.senate.gov/?p=press\\_release&id=569](http://baucus.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=569), June 29, 2011

(4) The owner/shipper certificates attest to each horse’s fitness to travel. It includes a description of each horse in the load and requires the shipper to declare that the horses can stand on all four limbs, are not blind in both eyes, are older than six months of age, can walk unassisted, and are unlikely to give birth during the trip. A copy is on page seven of the GAO report.

(5) The USDA letter is on pages 59-60 of the GAO report.

(6) AAEP letter issued June 27, 2011; <http://www.aaep.org/images/files/AAEPStatementregardingGAOReportonHorseWelfare.doc>

### Anti-slaughter bill introduced

Despite of the findings of the GAO report, two lawmakers have introduced bills to end the transport of horses to processing plants. S 1176, sponsored by Senator Mary Landrieu, and HR 2966, sponsored by Representative Dan Burton, have been referred to committees.

# Horse industry acts quickly to contain deadly neurological virus outbreak

*Continued from page 9*

state and federal animal health officials had not worked with industry to provide necessary tracing, information sharing and media relations. Unfortunately, incorrect reports of states closing borders to horses, rapid spread of the disease and massive casualties ran rampant through email, social networking and media outlets. However, state officials became the conduit for reliable information to panicked horse owners from the outset, and many state agriculture departments and veterinary offices began daily updates to report confirmed cases, deaths and other pertinent information. These officials also became the source that event organizers looked to for advice on holding events, biosecurity measures to be put into place and information about the specific form of EHV-1 that was spreading so quickly through the cutting horse world. USDA/APHIS put the puzzle pieces together in the different states and provided weekly reports so that the horse industry and state animal health officials could see the whole picture.

## Importance of information distribution

This disease outbreak highlighted how social media, email and the Internet can spread information – both correct and incorrect. From the beginning of this outbreak, the Facebook and Twitter universes were buzzing with information from both reliable and unreliable sources. Unfortunately, state health officials spent a lot of time combating the rumors and false media reports that were feeding the frenzy of horse owners. Horse owners in most states involved in the outbreak quickly learned that daily updates on state health department websites and social media outlets were the best ways to accurately communicate the reality of the situation. These daily updates eventually helped quiet the rumor mill as horse owners learned where they could get trusted information.

## Biosecurity is key

No one who owned a horse during this outbreak will take biosecurity measures lightly in the future. The speed that this outbreak moved through the horses that were in Ogden and then was transported back to the states was a real wakeup call for the horse industry to take biosecurity measure more seriously. It has become quite apparent to the horse industry that we have a high level of responsibility to our members to educate about biosecurity and we should expect those that hold our events to practice these measures to do what we can to keep any disease outbreak as minimal as possible.

In the end, those who owned horses that were involved in the outbreak had catastrophic losses and veterinary bills, but because of the quick work of the NCHA and state and federal animal health officials, the outbreak was contained fairly quickly. If NCHA had allowed one more show to go on or taken any extra time in notifying those that showed in Ogden, we could be writing about a complete shut down of the horse industry in the US and more devastating losses of great horses. Thankfully, the horse industry reacted and we are getting back the business of trail riding, rodeoing, horse showing and generally enjoying our horses!

As of June 23 the USDA/APHIS released its final situation report stating that “disease spread in connection with this incident has been contained and no further situation reports will be generated.” Happily, case closed.

## Update Egg producers get concessions from HSUS

United Egg Producers, the trade group representing most of the egg producers in the US, agreed to join the Humane Society of the US in seeking federal legislation that would codify producers’ own plans for modernizing hen housing facilities. In exchange, the animal rights organization promised to end its initiative campaigns to force more burdensome changes on egg farmers.

Contrary to earlier HSUS demands for cage ban, the agreement calls for the industry to gradually change to an enriched colony system that increases the space available per hen and allows natural behaviors such as scratching and nesting while still protecting hen health. The change will require millions of dollars in facility investments.

The American Humane Association and animal handling expert Temple Grandin recommend enriched colony housing. Industry research indicates that this method maintains hen health, allows for better handling of manure, and keeps eggs cleaner than cage-free housing.

HSUS has campaigned against modern hen housing systems for several years, backing initiative petitions in some states and seeking legislative changes in others. The California initiative won handily but legislators in Oregon worked with egg producers to pass a law allowing enriched colony systems instead of the HSUS proposal.

For more information about the attacks on agriculture, see *NAIA Animal Policy Review* Spring 2011 and Winter 2010.



*National Animal Interest Alliance  
111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 2660  
Portland, Oregon 97204-3621*