

NVAP Corner

Contact your [NVAP Coordinator](#)

Upcoming NVAP presence at conferences in District 1:

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Fall CE Conference
Module 29
October 18, 2017
Marlborough, MA

North Carolina Veterinary Conference
Module 9
November 3, 2017
Raleigh, NC

See upcoming NVAP presence at conferences [Nationwide here](#)

You can now access past issues of **DI newsletters on our website!**
[Newsletters](#)

[VS 1-36A Form](#)

[Accreditation Renewal Info](#)

Tips Corner

◆ **Look UP Tool Expanded:** Do you know if you have let your accreditation expire? The Check my Accreditation Status tool has been improved. You can now check to see what category you are and your renewal date as long as you know your National Accreditation Number (NAN) and last name in our system. Click [here](#) to access the tool.

◆ Please keep in mind that we may only give your NAN to you or leave it as a message on a line that is clearly identified as your personal line. The above actions will expedite your request or inquiry.

◆ You may complete your APHIS Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) Modules at any time during your three-year renewal cycle. For example, if your renewal is not due for another two (2) years, you may go ahead and complete the modules now; however, you may not submit your renewal application any earlier than six (6) months before your Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD).

Celebrating the One Year Anniversary of the USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website!



It's hard to believe that it's been a year already, but the [USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website \(PTW\)](#) for privately-owned companion animals reached its 1-year anniversary on July 18, 2017! We appreciate the positive feedback from you and your clients, and hope that the website has helped make the international movement of your companion animal patients easier. We understand that there are some areas that need improvement and are working to address them. You can expect to see the updates to the PTW in the near future.

Following the debut of the PTW, we observed a decrease in the number of companion animal health certificates that are not in compliance with the destination country's import regulations. To help avoid errors when issuing health certificates, remember that import regulations can and do change without advance notification to USDA

APHIS. Every time you issue an export health certificate (companion animal or not) you should verify the import regulations. (Similarly, we recommend you NOT bookmark the link directly to the health certificate or our guidance documents. Such links may take you to outdated information.) If the destination country has notified USDA APHIS of their import regulations for a species of animal, it will be posted to the PTW (for privately-owned companion animals) or Live Animal International Regulations (a.k.a., IRegs – for all other animals). Conversely, you or your client will need to contact the destination country for their import regulations if that information is not available on the PTW or IRegs.

When submitting their health certificate for endorsement, some of your clients have included a document created by your staff with instructions on obtaining endorsement. We appreciate the intent, but ask that you please not create such documents on our behalf; all such documents we've received have contained either erroneous or incomplete information. Note that we have a guidance document for you and your clients to explain the endorsement process. (Large animal practitioners, we have one for horses, equine semen, and breeding cattle to Canada – email us at vspnsny@aphis.usda.gov if you'd like a copy!)

A roadside pig and a twelve-step program (Part 1) Dr. Julie Gauthier, editor-in-chief of FAD Eye

Based on true story, this vignette takes us through the 12 steps that a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) and accredited veterinarian use to conduct a foreign animal disease investigation.

1. Receive the assignment from the State Veterinarian and VS Assistant District Director (AD).

A new client presents a pot-bellied pig to a mixed-animal practitioner. The young pig is very sore, and very sick; he is depressed, febrile, and has extensive coalescing raw blister-like lesions on his snout and all four feet. The client purchased the pig yesterday from a man who was parked on the side of the road selling a litter of pigs out of the back of his pick-up truck. No other information about the seller is known.

The practitioner is very concerned that this is a vesicular disease, and contacts the State Veterinarian's office, sending photos of the lesions. The State Veterinarian, in consultation with the VS AD, assigns an FADD who works in the practitioner's area.

2. Initial phone call between FADD and veterinary practitioner.

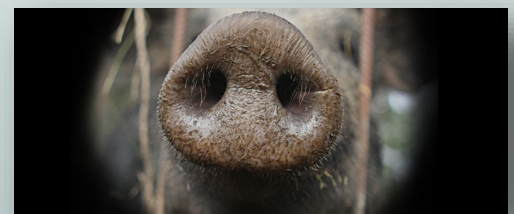
Within the hour of the practitioner's call to the State Vet, the FADD phones the practitioner to plan the investigation, collecting the sparse

history, the clinical signs, and directions to the practice.

3. Biosecurity measures upon arrival.

On arrival, the FADD introduces herself at reception and asks to speak to the reporting practitioner. Together, they decide where the FADD should park her vehicle and enter the clinic to examine the pig. They also discuss a plan to isolate the pig within the clinic and disinfect the areas, such as the waiting room and exam room, where the pig had been. They plan temporary measures to quarantine and care for the other hoofed livestock (a goat and a cow) housed outdoors at the clinic, as well as a traffic plan for other clients and patients arriving at the clinic so business can continue while the investigation is ongoing.

At the chosen parking spot at the back of the clinic, the FADD dons clean coveralls, boots, and disposable exam gloves, and assembles a tote with supplies from her truck that she will need to examine and collect samples from the pig.



To be continued...

Scrapie Submissions Needed

Submitted by Dr. Diane Sutton, Sheep and Goat Health Commodity Team Leader

The good news for American sheep and goat producers is that the industry has scrapie on the run. The bad news is that the current status makes carriers of this fatal disease more difficult to find.

“The incidence rate is now very low and finding the few remaining cases becomes more difficult using traditional surveillance methods,” said Wyoming State Veterinarian Jim Logan, DVM. “The best and most appropriate method now is within flock surveillance. It is in the best interest of the industry that we sample as many adult dead sheep and goats that we can and get them tested.”

The only diagnostic tests currently available to determine if a sheep or goat has scrapie require brain or lymphoid tissue. Live animals can be tested using rectal lymphoid tissue biopsy.

The best way for veterinarians and producers to assist in eradicating scrapie from American borders is to participate in APHIS’ sample submission program. The program is provided at no cost to veterinarians and producers, and asks for samples from sheep or goats 18 months of age or older.

The process for submitting samples is fairly simple and outlined in below. Shipping boxes with packing supplies and shipping are provided at no cost by APHIS. Tissues can also be submitted in formalin. For more information on submitting samples click [here](#).

Whole Head Packaging Procedures

Preparing the Head

1. After removing horns (if present), put the head in a plastic bag. Leave the ears with all identifications devices (official and unofficial) attached to the head. Securely close the bag.



2. Place the bag containing the head in a second bag and identify this bag with the specimen number that corresponds with the number on the RSSS Whole Head Submission Worksheet. Securely close the bag.
3. Chill head prior to further packaging by immersing in ice (not dry ice)

for at least 1 hour or cooling in a refrigerator for at least 3 hours.

4. Cool or refrigerate the head until and during shipping in special cooler provided by APHIS VS. Do not freeze the head, unless this is the only way to preserve the specimen.

Packing the Cooler

1. Place two frozen chill packs in the bottom of the cooler.
2. Open and insert the large plastic bag to form a liner in the cooler.



3. Place absorbent material inside the liner and place the double-bagged head(s) inside the liner. Securely close the liner bag.



4. Place two frozen chill packs on top of the heads and close the lid of the cooler.

5. Place the completed RSSS Whole Head Submission Worksheet in a zipper type plastic bag, seal the bag and place it between the lid of the cooler and the lid of the exterior carton. Seal the exterior carton.

Shipping the Cooler

Ship overnight to:
Veterinary Services
Remington Facility
18795 S 580 W
Remington, IN 47977
(or as directed by your [VS contact](#))

Notify Remington Locker via phone or email when a shipment is scheduled for delivery:

Phone: (317) 347-3100
Fax: (219) 261-2357
Remington.Locker@aphis.usda.gov

IF SHIPPING IS DELAYED, REPLACE CHILL PACKS IN COOLER

Produced in cooperation with the [American Sheep Industry Association](#)

“Your Role in Disease

Surveillance: Importance of Test Charts”

Valerie Koenig, DVM, VMO and Gail Skamarack, Program Assistant – New England

As an accredited veterinarian you play a vital role in detecting regulated diseases and contributing to our surveillance of animal populations. One of the ways that VS demonstrates national disease freedom is through testing of a statistically significant proportion of populations for diseases such as Bovine Brucellosis, Swine Brucellosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis. It is through reporting on test charts that we are able to capture the data necessary to complete annual reports for submission to our national staff. Additionally, not only is it important to classify disease freedom nationwide, but also individually by state. It is therefore of distinct importance that these records are accurately and legibly completed so that each state’s test chart data can be entered correctly in our database.

Listed below are some common errors encountered on test charts:

- Using non-official animal identification
- Incomplete name or National Accreditation Number (NAN) (“Agree Code” box)
- Not selecting a test reason
- Not completing the summary of test results
- Illegible information

Solutions to remedy these common errors:

- Include Official ID type (NUES/brite tag, 840 tag, registration tattoo, etc.) and number of each animal tested (*see picture highlighting official ID components on one type of 840 tag*)

Official ID Components



- Print and sign your name in the designated boxes along with NAN
- Select the appropriate test reason
- Correctly add the total of each result type from all pages
- Clearly print all info

As busy practicing veterinarians, we understand that efficiency is of utmost importance. Although you may have a technician that helps to complete the test chart, the signing veterinarian ultimately needs to review and complete once testing is finalized as this is a legal document.

We appreciate the work you do and rely on you as accredited veterinarians to act as agents of Veterinary Services in performing this disease testing. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call your [regional VS office](#).

Check out NVAP [Module 2](#) for full training on test charts and forms completion.

Your feedback is very important to us. Please reply to the email you received the newsletter in and let us know your suggestions.

North Carolina to host the World Equestrian Games in 2018!

More to come with an article from Lewis Dodds, DVM, VMO