Whereas, The majority of the emerging infectious diseases, including the bioterrorist agents, are zoonoses; and

Whereas, Zoonoses can, by definition, infect both animals and humans; and

Whereas, By their very nature, the fields of human medicine and veterinary medicine are complementary and synergistic in confronting, controlling, and preventing zoonotic diseases from infecting across species; and

Whereas, Collaboration and communication between human medicine and veterinary medicine have been limited in recent decades; and

Whereas, An initiative, often called the “One Health” initiative, is being developed to improve the lives of all species—human and animal—through the integration of human and veterinary medicine (J. Zinsstag, et al. Lancet 2005; 366: 2142-2145 and E.P.J. Gibbs. Veterinary Record 2005; 157: 673-679); and

Whereas, “One Health,” previously coined as “One Medicine” by Calvin Schwabe, aims to promote and implement close meaningful collaboration/communication between human medicine, veterinary medicine, and all allied health scientists with the goal of hastening human public health efficacy as well as advanced health care options for humans (and animals) via comparative biomedical research; and

Whereas, The challenges of the 21st Century demand that these two professions work together; and

Whereas, The President of the American Veterinary Medical Association is advocating for an initiative to promote collaboration between human and veterinary medicine (http://www.avma.org/online/javma/sep06/060901d.asp); and

Whereas, Our AMA recognizes the ways in which animals and animal care may affect human health and disease through policies on the use of animals in research, medical education, and product safety testing (H-295.957, H-460.932, H-460.979, H-460.985); xenotransplantation (H-370.972, E-2.169); animal-transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in humans (H-150.959, D-150.990); non-therapeutic use in animals of antimicrobials that are also used in humans (H-440.895); and protection against avian influenza (D-440.962, D-440.965); therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support an initiative designed to promote collaboration between human and veterinary medicine (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support joint educational efforts between human medical and veterinary medical schools (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage joint efforts in clinical care through the assessment, treatment, and prevention of cross-species disease transmission (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in public health (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new diagnostic methods, medicines, and vaccines for the prevention and control of diseases across species (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between human and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research (Directive to Take Action).*

* The language shown in this last Resolved statement incorporates the change recommended by Reference Committee E (see below). The original resolution, including this one amendment, was adopted by the AMA House of Delegates on June 25, 2007.

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated cost of $2,000 for meeting costs and staff time.

Received: 05/24/07

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-295.957 Use of Animals in Medical Education
Our AMA has adopted the following guidelines on the use of animals in medical school curricula and continuing medical education courses: (1) Where appropriate, medical school faculty should consider using non-animal models in education activities; when animals are used in the curriculum, education goals should be clearly stipulated. (2) Each medical school should disseminate a policy statement to students before matriculation regarding their participation in educational experiences involving animals. (3) All educational experiences involving animals should have the approval of the institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. (4) Involved faculty should discuss with students the learning objectives of any educational experience that utilizes animals, and faculty should remain available throughout the laboratory exercise for advice and guidance on the conduct of the educational experience. (5) All educational experiences involving animals should be carried out in a humane manner without inflicting pain on the animal. This includes the appropriate use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs. (6) At the conclusion of study, animals should be euthanized in the manner described by the American Veterinary Medical Association. (CSA Rep. A, I-90; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00)

H-460.932 Increased Public Education Regarding Animal Research
Our AMA: (1) supports providing educational materials on the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research to students of all grades from kindergarten through grade 12; (2) encourages physicians to work actively in their communities to introduce educational materials on the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research into the curricula of all grades from kindergarten through grade 12; and (3) continues to oppose the use of violence, intimidation, and distortion by the opponents of the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research. (Sub. Res. 511, A-96; Reaffirmed and Modified: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-06)
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES (A-07)

Report of Reference Committee E

Paul C. Matson, MD, Chair

In keeping with Resolution 601 (A-96), the Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED OR SUBSTITUTED

(27) RESOLUTION 530 - COLLABORATION BETWEEN HUMAN AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

RECOMMENDATION A:

Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that the sixth Resolve of Resolution 530 be amended by insertion and deletion on page 2, line 20 to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That our AMA engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between human and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research (Directive to Take Action).

RECOMMENDATION B:

Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 530 be adopted as amended.

Resolution 530 asks that our AMA (1) support an initiative designed to promote collaboration between human and veterinary medicine; (2) support joint educational efforts between human
medical and veterinary medical schools; (3) encourage joint efforts in clinical care through the assessment, treatment, and prevention of cross-species disease transmission; (4) support cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in public health; (5) support joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new diagnostic methods, medicines, and vaccines for the prevention and control of diseases across species; and (6) engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between the medical and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research.

Your Reference Committee heard significant testimony in support of this resolution. The President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) testified that collaboration between human and veterinary medicine is crucial in the current global environment of emerging infections. Many examples of the benefits that have already been derived from such collaboration were presented by the USPHS. These include facilitating investigations of complex zoonotic disease outbreaks, rabies control efforts, and foodborne illnesses evaluations. Finally, testimony suggested that joint AMA and AVMA tactical and strategic planning in this arena will greatly enhance public health communications and educational public affairs programs. Your Reference Committee concurs and recommends adoption of Resolution 530 with a clarifying edit made in the sixth resolve.