

F.No.25/20/2003-AWD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(Animal Welfare Division)

8th floor, Jeevan Prakash Building,
25, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001
Dated : 24th May, 2005.

To

(As per list)

Madam / Sir,

Re: Amendments in the protocol for use of equines for production of hyper immune sera
(ASVS)

I am directed to say that CPCSEA in its meeting held on 25.04.2005 has ratified and adopted the following decisions taken by the sub-committee set up to resolve the issues related to use of equines for production of hyper immune sera (ASVS).

1. Lower and upper age Limit for equines to be used in sera production :

- i) The bleeding of horses for production of hyper-immune sera should not start before the age of **5 years**.
- ii) The horses can however be inducted into the hyper-immune production programme before attaining 5 years age but the minimum age for bleeding will be 5 years.
- iii) That subject to strict health, blood and biochemical parameters to ensure that the animals are physically & clinically sound and immunologically responsive for continuation in the hyper-immune sera production, the species wise upper age limit of the equines will be as follows:

Ponies	:	18 years
Horses	:	22 years
Mules	:	25 years

iv) That the maximum age limit of equines for production of hyper-immune sera that has been relaxed upto 21 years effective till March 2005, will continue till notification of the amended protocol.

iv) The para in the Original Protocol – 2001 stating "No animal should be in the programme for a period exceeding 3 years" stands omitted.

Rayk Maheshwari

24/5/05
DIR (AW)

2. Species-wise body weight for equines to be used in sera production :

The species wise minimum body weight for equines to be used in hyper-immune sera production will be as follows :

Ponies	:	Minimum 150 Kgs
Mules	:	Minimum 250 Kgs
Horses	:	Minimum 300 Kgs

3. The bleeding schedule and quantum of blood to be collected:

- a) 5% of circulatory blood volume or 0.5% of total body weight repeated every two weeks with plasmapheresis and transfusion in practice, or
- b) 15% of circulatory blood volume or 1.5% of total body weight repeated every four weeks with plasmapheresis and transfusion in practice

The above limits are however subject to strict health, blood and biochemical parameters to ensure that the animals are physically & clinically sound and immunologically responsive for continuation in the hyper-immune sera production.

4. Rehabilitation of equines after their use in hyper-immune sera production:

- i) The responsibility of rehabilitation of the equines after their use in hyper immune sera production will continue to remain with the respective organizations.
- ii) Ministry of Environment & Forests (Animal Welfare Division) will initiate identification and notifying of NGO's for rehabilitation of these equines.
- iii) The prescribed rate to be paid by the sera producing organizations to identified NGOs for rehabilitation of the equines will be decided later.
- iv) Till such time, the sera producing organizations will continue to maintain these equines.
- v) The rehabilitation of these equines by sale, auction or donation can not be done.

Raj Mahajan
24/5/5
DIR (AW)