



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

March 10, 2000

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE NO. 00-08

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

SUBJECT: Tuberculin Testing in Reindeer  
TO: Directors, VS Regions  
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS

Washington, DC  
20250

This notice makes reference to the USDA-APHIS-VS report "Evaluation of Tuberculin Tests in U.S. Captive Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)" and to VS Form 6-22D (Feb 99) "Comparative Cervical Tuberculin Test Results."

The above-mentioned report presents the results of a VS study, conducted during 1999, comparing tuberculin testing of reindeer and of other captive cervids. The report gives estimates of sensitivity and specificity calculated by using different scattergrams to interpret the comparative cervical tuberculin test (CCT).

When the current CCT scattergram for tuberculin testing of cervids (as it appears in VS Form 6-22D (Feb 99)) is used for reindeer, the specificity of the test is 74.2 percent when suspects are classified as positives and 91.1 percent when they are classified as negative. These specificity values are significantly lower than those for non-reindeer cervid species (92.2 percent and 99.3 percent, respectively). When the scattergram is modified to increase the specificity of the test by moving the suspect zone for cervids to the right, the estimated specificity for tuberculin testing of reindeer increases significantly.

Therefore, VS will evaluate tuberculin testing in reindeer and monitor the use of this modified scattergram. When presenting tuberculin test results for reindeer, make the following modifications to the VS Form 6-22D (see the attached graph):

1. Draw a vertical straight line extending from:  
the point on the x-axis that indicates a 2.25-mm response  
to:  
the line that, for cervids, separates the suspect zone from the negative zone.
2. Draw a vertical straight line extending from:  
the point on the x-axis that indicates a 3.75-mm response  
to:  
the line that, for cervids, separates the suspect zone from the reactor zone.



The new suspect zone, for reindeer only, will now be the area enclosed by the two new lines plus the remainder of the cervid suspect zone on the right. The new negative zone, for reindeer only, will now be anything to the left of this new suspect zone. The reactor zone, for reindeer only, will be anything to the right of this new suspect zone.

The estimated specificity of the CCT for reindeer using this modified scattergram is still lower than the specificity of the CCT for Cervidae using the current scattergram. However, it is closer than when the current scattergram is used for reindeer. VS will evaluate tuberculin testing in reindeer and monitor the use of this modified scattergram on a 2-year provisional basis.

Thomas E. Walton *for*

Alfonso Torres  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information is 0579-0084. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .2 hours per responses, including the time for reviewing instructions, search existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

USDA - APHIS - VETERINARY SERVICES

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 0579-0084

COMPARATIVE CERVICAL TUBERCULIN TEST RESULTS  BOVINE  CERVINE OR  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HERD OWNER (Last, First, Middle Initial)

ADDRESS (Including Zip Code)

COMPARATIVE	TEST
NUMBER TESTED	DATE INJECTED

PRIOR	CFT	OR	SCT
NUMBER TESTED	DATE INJECTED		

COMPARATIVE	RETEST	OBSERVATION	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1ST	<input type="checkbox"/> 2ND	<input type="checkbox"/> 3RD	

NEG.	SUS.	REA.

NAME OF VETERINARIAN

TITLE

DATE

