



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between**

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale", Teramo (IZSAM)

and

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)

Whereas the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale", Teramo (IZSAM) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which affirms the collaboration in the development of research, training and communication programmes in the area of dourine diagnostic development, research and training;

Whereas IZSAM is a veterinary public health organisation belonging to the Italian National Health System and has a long time expertise on research, training, consultancy on animal health and welfare;

Whereas NVSL is the national animal health reference laboratory for USDA;

Whereas USDA, NVSL and IZSAM mutually agree to initiate cooperative activities to increase the knowledge on dourine ;

Whereas dourine re occurred in Italy after 15 years, IZSAM has been involved in the disease diagnosis and outbreak management;

Whereas dourine is a sexually transmitted equine trypanosomosis, caused by *Trypanosoma equiperdum*. It belongs to the trypanozoon subgenus and it is



indistinguishable from *T. equiperdum*, *T. brucei* and *T. evansi* that causes a very similar disease (surra) in equids. Dourine is a chronic disease with a low number of parasites in infected tissues leading a very difficult diagnosis.

The NVSL performs importation testing for Dourine on all equidae entering the United States. Improving diagnostics for this disease is important to prevent its introduction into the territories of the United States of America and to detect affected equidae being transported internationally.

Whereas this Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the two Parties;

Therefore, IZSAM and the USDA, NVSL enter into this Memorandum of Understanding:

ARTICLE I:

This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as a broad and general enabling document and will provide the basis and authority for the development and implementation of more specific projects, which may be in a variety of areas including, but not limited to:

- Exchange information and material according to specific Material Transfer Agreement;
- Collaborate in generating innovative tools to increase diagnostic skills for dourine and to improve knowledge on biology and genetic differentiation of the parasite;
- Develop common research project ;
- Exchange of experts, students and researchers and their specific knowledge.

All proposed projects originating under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the written approval of the signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding and will include details of any specific requirements with reference to human, technical and financial resources.

ARTICLE II:

IZS and the USDA, NVSL each will nominate one or more contact person/s to develop initiatives and produce programmes and projects for cooperation and exchange of experiences in specific areas of interest. Communication between all those involved in the projects and programmes at all levels within IZS and the USDA, NVSL are encouraged.

ARTICLE III

The Agreement will be for five years in the first instance with a review by the Parties



after 3 years, and can be continued thereafter through discussion and exchange of letters between the two organisations. The Agreement may be terminated by either party with 6 months' written notice. However, the effective date of cancellation shall not take place prior to the termination of ongoing projects and may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the two Parties.

ARTICLE IV

Each party agrees to keep all information strictly confidential and not to disclose to any third party any Information received from the other prior to, during or subsequent to the Effective Date of this Memorandum of Understanding. All new knowledge generated in the framework of the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be considered as common intellectual property and the date of its dissemination will be agreed by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties execute this Agreement as set forth below.

By: _____

Director
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"

Date: 12-10-13

By: David R Kinker

Dr. David Kinker, DBL-Serology Section Head
National Veterinary Services Laboratories

Date: 11-18-13