

Institutional Policy and Inter- agency Interactions Relating to Tick-borne Diseases

Initial Issues Raised

- The need for better diagnostic tests
- The need for formal training programs
- The need for new acaricides and better methods for controlling ticks
- The role of animal surveillance as it relates to human disease risk
- Coordination of TBD-related efforts between federal and state agencies and other stakeholders?
- Translation of institutional policy (state and federal) to the public level and subsequent effect on services (prevention, control, treatment and physician services)
- Who is responsible for and empowered to control ticks and tick-borne disease?
- Opportunities for greater interagency cooperative efforts

Highest Priority Needs

- Better Interagency coordination
- Increased education and outreach efforts
- Better diagnostic tests
- A plan for follow-up discussions
- Formation of an interagency working group or committee

Action Item 1

Develop of an Interagency strategic plan for TBDs

- Establish an interagency working group with key stakeholders
- Define the key problems
- Identify current strengths and weaknesses
- Develop a strategy (logic plan)
- Define outcomes and performance measures
- Establish priorities
- Identify additional needed resources
- Leverage combined agency efforts for strategic success
- Promote overall program using the *One Health Initiative* as a driver
- Design a venue (website) for communicating information among organizational stakeholders, researchers, practitioners, and the public and for distributing supportive documents, information, and resources

Action Item 2

Develop a newsletter – *Tick Talk??* (*Stan's Shtick!*)

- AFPMB to organize effort (write/edit)
- Distribute broadly and post on agency websites
- In first newsletter, include stakeholder agency overview (from this meeting)
- Publish newsletter twice per year
- Present thematic issues
- Apply for PESP support from EPA or mini-grant from IPM Centers
- Consider eXtension community of practice

Doing More With Less \$\$\$



**SANTA'S
GHETTO**

