

Animal Health News



News for Veterinarians from the North Dakota Board of Animal Health

BOAH orders testing on Canadian cattle imports

The North Dakota Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has unanimously voted to require tuberculosis and brucellosis testing of all cattle entering North Dakota from Canada.

The action came in December as a report of a confirmed case of bovine TB was received from Manitoba. Out of a load of 24 cattle shipped from Manitoba to Minnesota for slaughter, two cows were found with suspicious lesions. Laboratory tests confirmed positive diagnosis for TB. Traceback testing on a herd near Rosburn, Manitoba, resulted in 30 of 84 head testing positive to a caudal fold test. No other infected animals were found within six miles of the infected herd. The infected herd, however, was located within a mile of a TB-infected herd that was depopulated in 1991.

Because BOAH members were unsure of disease surveillance in Canada, they ordered the testing as a preventative measure to protect North Dakota's disease-free status.

The action means that all females over 12 months must be official calfhood vaccinated (OCV). A negative brucellosis test within 30 days of importation and a negative TB test with 60 days of importation are also required. The requirements do not apply to animals destined for immediate slaughter.

In other action, the board:

- Elected Dan Bueligen, New Salem, president for 1998. Bueligen, a dairy farmer, succeeds Matt Benz, Beulah, as BOAH president. Francis "Buck" Maher, Menoken, was elected vice president.
- Agreed to consider the use of immunocontraceptives on a case-by-case basis by species. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department had asked that the board not support the use, but board members said that in some instances, such as controlling unwanted predators like coyotes, immunocontraceptives could prove useful.

Continued on page 7

Next meeting

The North Dakota Board of Animal Health will meet at 9 a.m. CT, Wednesday, March 11, at the North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck.

EPA considering regulations on feeding operations

Veterinarians should know that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon publish regulations concerning concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). These regulations will very likely affect virtually all livestock operations.

The Board of Animal Health is particularly concerned by the Animal Agriculture Reform Act, sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa. This bill directs the EPA to enact rules and regulations affecting agricultural operations with as few as two animals. If you want a copy of the bill, please call the state veterinarian's office.

Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson and State Veterinarian Dr. Larry Schuler recently met with a regional EPA administrator to express North Dakota's concerns.

Veterinarian named to examining board

Dr. James Clement, Mandan, has been appointed to the Veterinary Medical Examining Board by Gov. Edward Schafer.

Other board members are Dr. Tim Matz, Wahpeton, and Dr. London Jacobs, Powers Lake.



Animal Health News

is published by

The North Dakota
Board of Animal Health

Daniel Bueligen, New Salem
President

Francis Maher, Menoken
Vice President

Dr. Mark Lewis, Lisbon
Secretary

Dr. Steve Yost, Dickinson
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and

The North Dakota
Department of Agriculture

Roger Johnson
Commissioner of Agriculture

Dr. Larry Schuler
State Veterinarian

Dr. Susan Keller
Deputy State Veterinarian

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Ted Quanrud, Editor



Welcome

This is the first issue of North Dakota Animal Health News, a new quarterly newsletter for North Dakota veterinarians.

The newsletter is designed to bring you veterinary news and information, current statistics on animal diseases in the state, a rundown on the agenda of the most recent Board of Animal Health meeting, news from other states and countries, changes in regulations and other useful information.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please call or write anytime.

We encourage you to call our office if you have any questions about North Dakota's requirements for moving animals into the state. For other states, we suggest you contact the state of destination or check the Internet for the latest information.

Larry Schuler

Susan Keller

Tammy Celley

N.D. rabies reports up 12%

Reports of rabies increased more than 12 percent in North Dakota in 1997.

Year-end statistics show 88 reports of rabies during the past year, compared to 77 reports in 1996.

Skunks led all species with 62 reports in 1997. There were 15 reports of bovine rabies, four cases in horses, one case in sheep, two each in dogs and cats, and single report of a muskrat with rabies.

The State Veterinarian's Office is looking for recent video footage of a cow with rabies. If you have or know of such footage or if you suspect a case of bovine rabies, please call the office at (701) 328-2654.

In other states

MONTANA: Dr. Arnold Gertonson is Montana's new State Veterinarian and Administrator of the Montana Department of Livestock Animal Health Division.

WISCONSIN: Seventeen elk from three domestic herds in Manitowoc County tested positive for bovine tuberculosis, and the herds were quarantined. Testing of 2,000 head of cattle from 25 farms within five miles

of the elk herds showed no indication that the disease had spread to cattle. Wisconsin's TB-free status has not been suspended.

IOWA: Both Iowa and California have recently been granted brucellosis-free status.

All but 10 states are now brucellosis-free. The target date for nationwide eradication is December 1998.

USDA-APHIS adopts regionalization rules on livestock imports

WASHINGTON — USDA’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has adopted a new rule establishing procedures for allowing the importation of animals and animal products into the United States from foreign regions, rather than only countries.

It also established procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under specified conditions, based on the region’s disease status.

For more information, check the agency’s website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.”

— Baxter Black —

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR WRITING CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

1. Make careful inspection of all animals in the shipment prior to issuing the certificate. Ship animals that show no evidence of disease.
2. Know the state of destination requirements prior to examining the animals. A telephone call to the state veterinarian in the receiving state may be the most expedient method of obtaining correct information.
3. Perform required tests and vaccinations. Be sure there is ample time to get test results from laboratories before departure date.
4. Individually identify each animal as required by the state of destination.
5. Certificates should be clear, accurate and legible. Only the veterinarian examining the animals being shipped should sign the certificate. The veterinarian’s name should also be clearly printed on the certificate.
6. Complete all parts of the certificate that apply to the animals being shipped.
7. Do not write certificates more than seven days after examination of the animals being shipped.
8. Always place your accreditation number after your signature - even on voided health certificates.
9. Certificates are prepared so there is a specific place for information requested. Write information within the blank for which it is intended and not in longhand all across the page.
10. Certificates should be distributed as instructed at the bottom right side of the certificate. Copies to the state veterinarians’s office should be mailed immediately after issue (including voided certificates). Certificates over 30 days old are delinquent and will be disapproved.

Reprinted from [Clemson Notes](#), published by the Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health Division, Columbia, S.C., March 1997.

Program aims to improve U.S.-Canada cattle trade

Montana and Washington have established a relationship with the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia to improve trade in cattle.

Under provisions of the Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP), Canada’s brucellosis- and tuberculosis-free status is recognized, and all types of cattle from the three provinces can be

imported into the two states without TB or brucellosis testing.

Once Canadian cattle are imported into Washington, they are subject to the same requirements as Washington State cattle. Washington buyers must notify their state veterinarian’s office to participate in NWPP, and must agree to complete a post-NWPP survey.

At the same time, Montana and Washington feeder cattle can be imported to special Canadian feedlots in sealed trucks with a minimum of paperwork and identification.

A Montana State University study estimated that up to 270,000 head of feeder cattle per year could be shipped from Montana to Canada under the pilot program.

Communicable disease update

Concern over the so-called “mad cow disease” — bovine spongiform encephalopathy — has spread from the United Kingdom across Europe. The impact of this fear has even been reflected in the U.S. cattle market.

Closer to home, two cases of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) have been reported in South Dakota domestic elk herds (see story below). As a result, the following statement will be required on incoming health certificates for elk:

This (these) elk (or deer) and the herd it (they) originate from have no history of emaciation, depression, excessive salivation or thirst or neurological disease. In the event of these symptoms, appropriate di-

agnostic measures were taken to rule out TSE (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy). These animals have not been exposed to an elk or mule deer diagnosed positive for TSE.

The zoonotic strain of avian influenza in Hong Kong (HPAI subtype H5N1) affects both chickens and humans. It is highly pathogenic, and has been implicated in four human deaths and in numerous cases of illness.

So far, approximately 1.7 million birds have been destroyed by the Hong Kong government. Although Chinese officials have declined assistance from USDA-APHIS, virus isolates have been sent to USDA for

confirmation and pathogenicity testing. No direct link between birds and humans has been established.

The last incidence of HPAI in the United States was in 1983-84 which resulted in the destruction of 17 million birds. Because of concern over the safety of poultry and poultry products, measures have been initiated to ban the importation of all live birds from Hong Kong.

USDA lifted a general quarantine on poultry in Pennsylvania last November. A total of 16 cases of H7N2 avian influenza was identified in that state between December 1996 and July 1997. The virus caused no human illness and only mild disease with moderate losses in poultry.

Much about CWD remains mystery

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) represents a concern that is particularly disturbing because so much about this disease remains a mystery. CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) that are characterized by spongiform changes in the brain. CWD affects mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk. Other examples of TSEs include scrapie disease of sheep and goats, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) of cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in human beings. All of the aforementioned diseases have long incubation periods, i.e., months to years, and the same symptoms and brain lesions. The causative agents of TSEs are not fully understood, but it is thought that they are proteins called prions that are capable of causing normal brain proteins to convert to abnormal proteins. There is no test applicable in live animals; microscopic examination of brain tissue is the primary laboratory method of diagnosis.

Affected animals have progressive weight loss, excess thirst, frequent urination, excessive salivation, and behavioral alterations. CWD has caused heavy losses in two captive research herds. In 1996, CWD lesions were seen in 6% of the male mule deer and < 1 % of the wild elk killed by hunters in a localized area in Colorado. There is no reason to believe that CWD cannot spread, and therefore, it should be considered a serious threat to deer and elk,

both freelifving and captive. The known geographic distribution of CWD has been limited to a relatively small region in north-central Colorado and south-central Wyoming, where it has been diagnosed in both captive and wild mule deer and elk . Recently, several cases have been seen in white-tailed deer. The long incubation period and lack of diagnostic tests mean that there is no effective way to identify infected animals.

In 1995, CWD was diagnosed in a captive elk in Saskatchewan. The affected cow elk had been exported by a rancher in South Dakota as a calf in December 1989. It was possible that its dam came from Colorado, but the history is vague. During the next 6 years, the affected elk had been on three different premises in Saskatchewan. This represents the second time CWD has appeared in Canada. The first case was in a mule deer that was imported from an endemic area in Colorado to a zoological park in Ontario. CWD is disturbing because this mysterious disease has a history of being moved via translocation and because it clearly can persist in free-ranging wild deer.

Human health problems have not been connected to CWD in cervids. Should there be a link either real or perceived between infection in wildlife and public health, it would have severe consequences for wildlife conservation.

EQUINE INTERSTATE REQUIREMENTS

The following listing includes a telephone number for more information, a brief synopsis of special requirements and a summary of Coggins Test requirements. All requirements are subject to change. If in doubt, call state of destination. Inspection should be made and health certificate (H.C.) issued within 30 days of shipment.

ALABAMA	(334) 240-7255. No special requirements. Negative Coggins Test required within 12 months if 6 months of age or older.
ALASKA	(907) 745-3236. Permit required. List lab name on H.C.; must also abide by Canadian requirements if going through Canada. Negative Coggins Test required within 6 months if 6 months of age or older
ARIZONA	(602) 542-4293. List complete description of each equine on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.
ARKANSAS	(501) 225-5138. Temperature reading recorded on H. C. Negative Coggins Test required within 12 months if 6 months of age or older; if less than 6 months, dam must have negative test within 12 months.
CALIFORNIA	(916) 654-1447. List lab name & accession number on H.C.; no test pending movement. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months; nursing foals exempt under 6 months if accompanying EIA negative dam; immediate slaughter exempt
COLORADO	(303) 239-4161. List lab name on H. C.; permit required if EIC test pending. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; nursing foals exempt under 6 months if accompanying EIA negative dam
CONNECTICUT	(860) 566-4616. List lab name, accession number, and temperature on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; within 2 months if for auction. Rabies vaccination for animals being exhibited.
DELAWARE	(302) 739-4811. H.C. within 10 days of entry; temperature reading required, not to exceed 102 degrees. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; within 6 months if for sale or auction.
FLORIDA	(850) 488-7747. Temperature reading required; list lab name, accession number, test results and date of test on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 6 months of age or older; nursing foals exempt under 6 months if accompanying EIA negative dam
GEORGIA	(404) 656-3671. Temperature reading required - not to exceed 102 degrees. list date of test, lab name and address on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; foals exempt less than 6 months if accompanying EIA negative dam.
HAWAII	(808) 483-7100. Call for complete information. H. C. 7 days with required tests, vaccination data and veterinarian certification; list lab name and address. Advance notice of arrival required. Post-shipment quarantine required. Negative Coggins Test within 90 days; retest required 45 to 60 days.
IDAHO	(208) 332-8560. Call for requirements. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months, no tests pending; nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam; working horses exempt with prior permission.
ILLINOIS	(217) 782-4944. Persons who consign equines to race tracks for exhibition should contact the officials of the track or exhibit for requirements. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.
INDIANA	(317) 232-1344. List test date, lab name, results and complete description of horse on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 2 months; nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam
IOWA	(515) 281-5547. List lab name and date of test on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 6 months of age or older; nursing foals exempt.
KANSAS	(785) 296-2326. Permit required for rodeo horses. Negative Coggins Test Yes, within 12 months.
KENTUCKY	(502) 564-3956. For exhibition, racing trail or amusement rides, negative EIA within 12 months; copy of EIA test report with H.C.. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months, or within 9 months if for sale; nursing foals under 6 months exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam
LOUISIANA	(504) 925-3980. List lab name, accession number & test date on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.
MAINE	(207) 287-3701. List test date on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months if 6 months of age or older.
MARYLAND	(410) 841-5810. Send copy of H.C. before leaving state of origin. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 9 months of age or older.
MASSACHUSETTS	(617) 727-3018. List lab name, test date, accession number and temperature reading on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months if 10 months of age or older
MICHIGAN	(517) 373-1077. Negative Coggins Test within 150 days; any age
MINNESOTA	(612) 296-2942. Permit required if EIA test pending: List lab name, address, test date and complete description of equidae on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; exceptions to EIA test requirement for rodeo, circus & animal acts, trail rides, exhibitions, slaughter; nursing foal accompanying EIA negative dam, test pending (with prior permit)

MISSISSIPPI (601) 354-6089. Copy of EIA test with H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

MISSOURI (537) 571-3377. List lab name, address and test date on H.C. Negative Coggins Test Yes, within 12 months; nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

MONTANA (406) 444-2976. Permit required. Negative Coggins Test if 6 months of age or older.

NEBRASKA (402) 471-2351. List lab name on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; nursing foals under 6 months exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

NEVADA (702) 688-1180. List lab name, test date and complete description on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; nursing foals under 6 months exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (603) 271-2404. List individual description; copy of EIA Test with H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months, nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

NEW JERSEY (609) 292-3965. List lab name, address, and test date on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

NEW MEXICO (505) 841-4000. List lab name, test date and complete description on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 6 months of age or older. Permit required of Coggins is pending.

NEW YORK (518) 457-3971. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 6 months of age or older.

NORTH CAROLINA (919) 733-7601. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if 9 months of age or older.

NORTH DAKOTA (701) 328-2655. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months, nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

OHIO (614) 728-6220. List lab name and temperature on H.C. VEE vaccination required if from confirmed VEE area. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months if 12 months of age or older.

OKLAHOMA (405) 521-3864. List lab name and test date on H.C. Yes, within 12 months if 6 months of age or older; nursing foals under 6 months exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

OREGON (503) 986-4680. List lab name, test results and accessions number on H.C. No tests pending. Pwemir ew. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months if 6 months of age exempt unless accompanying ZIA negative dam.

PENNSYLVANIA (717) 783-0777. List lab name and accession number on H.C.; copy of test with H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; foals under 6 months of age exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

RHODE ISLAND (401) 277-2781. List lab name, date, results and accession number on H.C. Rabies vaccination required for exhibition or show. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; foals under 6 months of age exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

SOUTH CAROLINA (803) 788-2260. Copy of EIA test with H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months.

SOUTH DAKOTA (605) 773-3321. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

TENNESSEE (615) 360-0120. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months (or 6 months if for a sale), if 6 months of age or older.

TEXAS (512) 719-0700. List lab name & test date on H.C. Permit required if direct to slaughter or to a vet clinic for treatment and not tested. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

UTAH (801) 538-7164. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

VERMONT (802) 828-2421. List lab name and accession number on H.C. Negative Coggins Test required within 12 months.

VIRGINIA (804) 786-2481. Complete description; permit number for horses for research or for immediate slaughter. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months.

WASHINGTON (360) 902-1881. Complete description of animal. Negative Coggins Test within 6 months if 6 months of age or older.

WEST VIRGINIA (304) 558-2214. Complete description H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months if state has program; no program 6 months.

WISCONSIN (608) 224-4872. Permit required for rodeo horses. Negative Coggins Test within calendar year; nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

WYOMING (307) 777-7515. Complete description; lab name and test data required on H.C. Negative Coggins Test within 12 months; nursing foals exempt if accompanying EIA negative dam.

CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS: Call (602) 379-3391. USDA International Health Certificate and endorsement required. List lab name and accession number on H.C.; no test pending movements. Coggins required within 6 months; nursing foals exempt under 5 months if accompanying EIA negative dam; immediate slaughter exempt.

OTHER COUNTRIES: Contact the USDA\APHIS\Veterinary Services at (602) 379-3391 for individual country of destination's requirements.

On the Net

The following is a list of some useful websites.

FDA Animal Drug Database
<http://netvet.wustl.edu/fdavet.htm>

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.cvm.fda.gov>

Animal Plant Health
Inspection Service
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov>

American Society of Animal Science
<http://www.asas.org>

Agricultural Research Service
<http://www.ars.usda.gov>

American Veterinary Medical Assoc.
<http://www.avma.org>

Agri-Surf
<http://www.agrisurf.com>

State Regulations
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov:80/vs/sregs/>

How to tell if your cow has "Mad Cow Disease"

- Your cow insists on wearing a little A-1 sauce behind each ear as cologne.
- She refuses to let you milk her, saying "Not on the first date."
- Your cow takes up painting and cuts off one of its ears.
- Your cow gets a silicon implant for her udder.
- Your cow appears on Oprah, claiming to be a horse trapped in a cow's body.
- Your cow demands to be branded with the "Golden Arches" logo.
- Your cow insists that all Hindus are sacred.
- Your cow thought Frank Bruno would beat Mike Tyson.
- You find your cow hiding secret plans to burn down half of Chicago.
- Your cow quits the dairy business and applies for a job at Burger King.
- Your cow starts giving you Milk of Amnesia.
- Your cow joins Hell's Angels because it's already got a cool leather jacket.
- Your cow gets a job at the Beef Marketing Board.
- Your cow spends half the day sitting in the lotus position chanting "moo" backwards.
- Your cow keeps wanting to chew other cow's cuds.
- Your cow seems to actually enjoy being "Hog-tied".
- Your cow asks you to brand it again but only if you'll wear something sexy this time.
- Your cow purposely blinds itself with a dart and yells out "Bulleye"!
- Your cow starts smoking the cowlick.
- Your cow becomes a Muslim and asks to be called "LaCream Abdul Milkbar".
- Your cow insists Milk Duds are the result of stupid cows.

Taken From "The Official Cow Tipping Homepage"
http://www12.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/1494/mad_cow.html

BOAH meeting

Continued from page 1

- Discontinued the requirement that hair and meat variety goats be brucellosis tested before entering North Dakota.
- Honored Dr. Charles Uecker, Hettinger, on his "second retirement" as acting deputy state veterinarian. Dr. Uecker served in the position from April through Dec. 1, when Dr. Susan Keller became deputy state veterinarian. The board and Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson thanked Uecker for his dedication and enthusiastic service. A retired large animal practitioner, Uecker has twice served as acting deputy veterinarian.

Early spaying and neutering: Pro & Con

Continued from page 8

— for example, perivulvar dermatitis — it will still be necessary for us to weigh that possible morbidity against the overpopulation very problem. The only time I am nervous about sterilizing an animal is when it is presented in the first few days following adoption. The stress of anesthesia and surgery on a patient that may be incubating one of the infectious diseases, such as parvovirus or coronavirus, can lead to exacerbation of clinical signs, for which we clinicians may get the "credit." The few major complications documented in the most recent report were due to infectious disease. I prefer waiting 10 to 14 days following adoption and vaccination before proceeding with surgery.

Veterinary Forum

HENRY HARRIS, D.V.M., Lodi, California, advises: "There is no excuse for surgically altering an animal before six to seven months of age, other than the convenience of humane societies and the need of some veterinarians to get in a little more surgery. The articles declaring that earlier surgery makes no difference have followed the animals for only a year or two; the condition of animals that underwent surgery years ago should be checked now. If this were done, I think the AVMA would be justified in coming out against early spay/neuter."

Don R. Waldron, D.V.M., Dipl. A.C.V.S., Blacksburg, VA, replies: Literally millions of animals are euthanized each year because of uncontrolled reproduction. The reason that early spay/neutering has

What do you think?

This article, taken from the December issue of Veterinary Forum, addresses the controversial issue of early spaying or neutering.

If you have an opinion on the subject, we'd like to hear from you. We encourage responses to the issue which could be included in our next newsletter. It will be interesting for colleagues within the state to see where others stand on this subject!

If you have suggestions for other survey or forum topics, please let us know.

been advocated is so the animal can be sterilized while under shelter control, thus eliminating the need for owner compliance with agreements to

spay or neuter the animal at a later date. Such compliance is reported to be <60 percent. A second premise implied by Dr. Harris is that there is inherent harm in advocating early spay/neuter.

The data-based articles that have appeared in reputable journals — (Journal of the American Veterinary Association 1997;211:57-62; 1993;202:53-55, and 1991;198:1193-1203) — do not support the notion that there is inherent harm with early surgery. Short-term complications appear to be statistically similar to those with surgery performed on mature animals but have a tendency to be lower. My guess is that if long-term studies document some increased incidence of complication

Continued on page 7

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