RESOLUTION #2—2020
Regular Winter Session

Submitted by-
Board of Directors

POLICY ON CRIBBING IN HORSES

    RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) adopt the policy on Cribbing in Horses as noted below:

Management of Cribbing in Horses
Cribbing (also known as crib biting or windsucking) is one of many repetitive behaviors known as stereotypies, which are sometimes demonstrated by horses. A variety of devices have been utilized to prevent horses from cribbing, including hog rings. The AVMA condemns the use of hog rings or other devices placed around the teeth to prevent cribbing in horses. These devices are detrimental to the welfare and health of the horse due to the potential to cause persistent pain, damage to the gingiva, periodontal disease and abrasive wear to adjacent teeth. The AVMA encourages research to understand and address the underlying causes of cribbing.

Statement about the Resolution
The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) received information in 2019 indicating that horses that are cribbing are being treated with devices that are detrimental to their health and welfare. One type of device, metal hog rings, are being placed through the incisors and around the teeth of horses that are cribbing. This practice is causing damage to the horses' mouths in the form of gingival damage, periodontal disease, and abrasive wear to teeth. Unfortunately, this practice is not only prevalent in the lay industry but is also being performed by some veterinarians. The AWC is aware of at least one formal complaint filed against a veterinarian related to use of this practice. The American Association of Equine Practitioners Animal Welfare and Public Policy Council is currently deliberating a similar policy against the use of hog rings for management of cribbing in horses.

Financial Impact: None.

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X			
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation			■■■■■	
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				