

FASS Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Care

December 15-16, 2008  
Chaparral Suites Resort  
5001 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ  
480-949-1414  
800-528-1456

AGENDA

12/15/08 Breakfast on your own – included in room fee

12 Noon Lunch (in meeting room – check with hotel)

Attend: Janice Swanson, Michigan State University; John McGlone, Texas Tech University; Maynard Hogberg, Iowa State University; Gail Golab, AVMA; Dan Morrical, Iowa State University; Bruce Webster, University of Georgia; Ken Koelkebeck, University of Illinois; Carolyn Stull, University of CA-Davis

1:30 p.m. Update on FASS activities (Dr. Maynard Hogberg)

Ken: Informed members to mail in travel forms to FASS within 30 days.  
Introductions of members, questions asked who represents the ADSA group dairy-suggests Collier (ASU), Tucker (UCD), Berry (UCD);  
FASS website needs informational update for the name (listing) of the Committee and most recent report of Committee.

Current status of FASS and future directions

Maynard: Welcomes Dr. Gail Golab (AVMA) to Committee. Jerome Baker left FASS in April. The Board decided to pay off building property prior to doing a property exchange which will allow FASS to move into a new facility. FASS initiated discussions last spring for the need for another FAIR (Food Animal Integration Research) priorities process and has approached the Tri-Societies involving plant sciences, with the focus to broaden out the process into agriculture. FASS's Jamie Ritter will meet in January of 2009 with the Tri-Societies to explore opportunities to streamline business aspects of the societies by being more efficient. The liaison (public policy) for FASS effort has been dampened due to budget restrictions. An ad hoc committee was formed to develop viable options within the three societies and make recommendations to FASS. FASS is currently looking for partnering societies to see if a public policy program can be funded with a decision to be made at the next board conference call in

mid-January 2009. If FASS fails, ASAS may develop the liaison in public policy. Budget concerns of the societies include the decrease in membership and emergence of open access for publishing research papers. Currently, there is no funding in the FY09 FASS budget for Scientific Advisory Committees. All scientific advisory committees of FASS are being reviewed for alterations or changes in membership and leadership and the traditional way we do business and the enhancement of informational transfer with the digital age. If we are to keep SAC's they will need to be reinvigorated.

Golab-AVMA struggles with balancing timely release with quality of factual information. The welfare division develops 2 to 10 page background papers for the AVMA leadership, communications venues, and Q & A venues.

Morrison-Discussed the timely release of information for various issues such as the horse slaughter issues- has the ban really improved the welfare of the horse?

McGlone-Generate U-tube type video with the facts, time may be the limiting factors, reaches many people.

Swanson- Maybe FASS could support the technical people to make this type of communication happen especially for the upcoming issues.

McGlone- Possibly we should be working ahead of the curve and work on proactive issues.

Swanson- Set research priorities and call for more funding.

Golab/Swanson- Euthanasia is on the agenda.

Golab-What type of non-traditional partnerships can we form? Get the message or communication venue to these groups; these groups can be useful. For example, ASPCA, AHA, Farm Bureau, Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA), and AVMA.

Golab- ASPCA employs 70 DVMs on their staff, with funding for research projects. AWI is more difficult to collaborate with because of firm opposition to confinement systems (no room to compromise).

Webster- How much has HSUS eroded the other groups from working with the academics? Such as HSUS influence with Prop 2 in California.

Golab- Many HSUS members are connected with local humane organizations which influence the local voting public. So, provide the scientific information on the local humane level. HSUS focuses on many issues not on the initiative in their media/communication to the public.

How does the FASS CAC committee and other scientific committees fit into FASS short/long term goals.--See Maynard's comments above.

Legislative updates

## FASS CAC appointments and new chair – **Janice Swanson**

### Committee member activity updates

OIE (Stull)—Golab commented that resolutions become an outcome of the meeting, with attendee provided feedback following the meeting in Cairo, 2008. USDA is asking for comments to the resolutions.

AAALAC (McGlone)—The four animal science societies in AAALAC with 65 organizations as members. Exec. Director has retired and new person (Dr. Newcomer) has been appointed. Recommends more animal scientists get involved in the Council of Accreditation and their other activities; FASS need to develop a pipeline of ad hoc members to become members on the Council. Animal Scientists provide valuable insights to inspection process. Best type of animal scientists has served on the IACUC at their own universities. Need to identify these people for the ad hoc committee. Ad hoc person does one or two site visits a year. Council has about a 25% time commitment to visits per year.

Hogberg will send a letter to department chairs to ask for potential ad hoc members. John will draft letter for Maynard. Cost benefit is a major challenge to getting sites to become accredited. Has accreditation actually improved welfare at the facilities?

McGlone gave case examples of how accreditation helped to improve the quality of research *and* welfare of animals, along with the maintenance of contemporary agriculture and animal facilities.

### FDA Guidance on regulating genetically engineered animals

McGlone- the deadline to comment has passed. John proposed FASS respond to those types of issues and be engaged in the comment process. Concern (is it safe?) to consumers, and there is scientific data on their nutritional content, and not the safety evaluation for cloned animals from a toxicology platform. John recommends FASS be engaged in a timely manners in the process, may be a role for the FASS liaison.

Golab--AVMA responded to FDA and USDA, with copies to Animal Care. The response (posted on the AVMA web site) highlighted potential animal welfare concerns and identified gaps in animal welfare coverage by virtue of animal type and use.

3:00 p.m.

Break

AVMA (Golab)-77,000 members, offices in IL and DC, 18 members on the Welfare Committee. Animal Welfare division has 5 people to facilitate good animal welfare decision making. Issues are identified management subcommittee prioritizes issues and assigns to subcommittees staff conducts additional background literature research for use by subcommittee and full committee, full Committee makes recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board. House of Delegates can also create policy in cooperation with or independent of Committee. JAVMA and website have information on the animal welfare issues. Recent policy revisions on cattle castration and dehorning, humane transport of equines, transport of cattle, and velveting practices, and a proposed policy on veal calf management practices has been sent by the Executive Board to the House of Delegates for consideration (iron, roughage, housing). Student and graduate education facilitation, make rounds on animal welfare presentations for state associations, colleges, etc. Reconvening a panel on euthanasia and looking for people with expertise in euthanasia for the working group. (Hogberg offered to send out a letter to department heads to identify people). Two year time line estimated for a more useful document. AVMA has been interactive with laboratory animal people, who would like to have Ag Guide and ILAR Guide compatible. Morrical - very discreet populations, controlled environment. What is the nature of research, determines the guide of choice. McGlone has addressed that in the revision of the Ag Guide. Swanson and McGlone talking with ILAR community on the incompatibility. Suggested to ILAR that they say nothing about farm animals except refer to the Ag Guide. ILAR may not be qualified to evaluate farm animals whereas Guide has species expertise. The USDA uses the Ag Guide. Space and sanitary requirements are the major differences between ILAR and Guide. New name for the Guide "for teaching and research" not agriculture teaching and research. Wildlife species are sometimes covered by ILAR, which is not appropriate since ILAR is not constituted of wildlife biologists. McGlone suggests a name change in their title too.

**Golab** suggests harmonization of the information between the guides, and suggests that both groups work together.

**McGlone** recounted that the poultry scientists would like more engineering standards than performance based standards (ILAR) so that subjective decisions are not made. Brought up the discussion about various procedures on the IACUC oversight of animals on commercial agricultural production facilities.

**Swanson**-Can be traced backed to SCAW meeting in the 1990s compared the Guide and ILAR requirements.

**Hogberg-** need to come into agreement on the issue (Ag Guide vs ILAR) since it will work against animal agriculture.

**Golab-**Recent meetings of AVMA with commodity groups and on another day the animal protection organizations to identify common welfare concerns, image, and PR that could work together and also to acknowledge that AVMA might disagree on some policies with either set of players, but would like to keep communication open. AVMA has policy to publicly express a position on state initiatives that have national implications, with California Prop 2 being the first case. Cadavers are becoming difficult to procure for educational purposes and AVMA is also working on the issue. AVMF reconsidering priorities, so more dollars may become available for animal welfare research in future. Requests suggestions for Congressional briefing (February 2009) on general animal welfare topics with a cohesive, rational voice especially focused for Congressional staff. The AVMA staff in DC is very effective at the Congressional staff level on the various issues.

**Hogberg -** Topics could include enormous research data, the many quality assurance programs that have evolved, performance data have accepted ranges with individual animal systems.

**Webster-**coordinated effort at the industry level to address many of the current welfare issues. Can't color it rosy (be honest) but show the efforts and solutions to the problems.

**Swanson-**in order to explore scientific solutions, we have to work cooperatively with industry.

**Webster-**suggested the industry has put resources and money into welfare research (Stull/McGlone disagrees; Koelkebeck brought up dollars into molting research)

**Golab-**pressure from the constituents in interacting with the issues in the political arena, give information on how the constituents are thinking and why that is important; if they understand this it may allow them to assess the information they are being given more critically.

**McGlone-** May be beneficial in combining responses between AVMA and FASS; possibly meet with the agricultural sector of the AVMA Anima Welfare Committee.

Ag Guide Revision (**McGlone and Swanson**)- Chapters submitted to FASS technical editor (Louise Adams), and returned to John/Janice. Issues include dairy chapter's chair (Pam Ruegg) has poor communication and no final draft of the chapter been submitted, poultry chapter is very long with 64 pages notably with an abundance of details and lack of performance standards on many topics. Suggestion for the poultry experts, Koelkebeck and Webster, to edit the current poultry chapter to standardize it with the other chapters. Also, a third party non-poultry Committee member, Morrival, may be helpful for the editing process. All

three CAC Committee members have accepted to edit the chapter, with a deadline January 15, 2009. After the editor, the draft will be organized by topics, then have the entire document peer-reviewed, and a final public comment period. Possibly request animal science and veterinary department chairs in accredited universities to identify faculty members to peer-review the entire document.

5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day  
6:00 p.m. Dinner – Roaring Fork

12/16/08 Attended-Swanson, Golab, Koelkebeck, Webster, Hogberg, Morrical and Stull.

9:00 a.m. FASS poultry worker training video (Koelkebeck)—Committee viewed the draft video (Level 1). Swanson opened the discussion with concerns about beta testing the video to appropriate groups for review and additional editing. Koelkebeck intends to have video committee review and additional shots and video should still be addressed. Swanson will forward specific suggestions to Koelkebeck for editing. Webster suggests more specific video on catching birds in different systems. Hogberg discuss the need to clarify the information to be referenced as science based or best management practices. Morrical suggests the acceptable carcass disposal options should be included. He also included inserting some video on student/teaching activity. Discussion was about updating the existing videos with new revision of the Guide, but Stull wonders how valuable the educational materials are being utilized in the past and currently. Possibly place video on web for free viewing in the future, thus enhancing education value of the training videos. Hogberg suggested that the Committee recommend a role for the existing videos for the FASS Board. Stull moved /2<sup>nd</sup> by Morrical the recommendation to the FASS Board that the videos be placed on the web for free downloading (Hogberg will carry the recommendation).

Committee discussion on addressing animal rights attacks on animal industries (Koelkebeck, Hogberg)

Koelkebeck brainstorm the idea of informing young people of the aspects on the animal rights issues. Webster presented the idea of our role in countering the animal rights activities, but to present fact and science on the industry practices. Swanson suggested that the FASS scientific liaison (future) may develop white papers on some subjects. Also set goal as a scientific society. Hogberg recounts that we should take the “high road” with supporting facts or research findings. Webster added that PSA has experts identified in different areas that can cover the specific issue, maybe a model for FASS. Golab suggests if we wanted to reach young people you must do blogs, facebook, and other media that they are attracted to use. Swanson suggested being an ambassador on the individual campuses. Morrical suggests we need a totally new line of approach for FASS in addressing the animal rights topics. Webster suggested a historical approach by species on the web of the evolution of the industries, may become a educational

tool. Hogberg suggests setting up a blog format, with technical work by FASS but input by community scholars.

FASS – CAC assignments and goals for 2009

Webster/Koelkebeck/Morrical will edit the Poultry chapter of Ag Guide by January 15, 2009; (Koelkebeck will coordinate with others)

Peer review final draft of Ag Guide.

Open member positions on the Committee should be filled (Hogberg)

Update/correct web information. Post summaries of the past Committee meetings.

Identify individuals for ad-hoc group for site visits of AAALAC.

Identify individuals for working on the euthanasia revision for AVMA.

Morrical- Proposed to develop a training video or other appropriate material on sheep/goats chapter of Ag Guide.

Propose placing training video on FASS web site for free downloading.

AVMA Animal Welfare Committee meeting February 2009 will have either McGlone/Swanson attend.

PEW report (Golab) will have talking points developed by AVMA committee and queried the Committee to integrate their comments into the talking points message- deadline for comments is December 22, 2008 to Golab. Golab acknowledged the misinformed ads located on [www.saveantibiotics.org](http://www.saveantibiotics.org) with pigs, cattle and poultry.

**GOAL:** Recommend to each society to support the hiring of a FASS scientific liaison; draft letter to each society (Swanson) and forward to Hogberg to be sent into the societies.

PETA's new video on "cruel" practices in raising meat animals...(www.peta.org) is now playing, no action suggested.

11:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting dates will be determined by new Chair (Swanson).