

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISEASES
OF WILD AND PET BIRDS
1979 - 1980

The major activities of this committee during the past year consisted of: 1) organization of an AAAP sponsored specialty group program in Avian Medicine held in conjunction with the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Meeting in Los Angeles on April 20, 1980, 2) encouraging active avian practitioners to organize at the local and regional level and to apply for membership in the AAAP, 3) cooperation with Dr. Robert Altman of the AAHA in providing a list of avian pathologists (AAAP members) throughout the country who might serve as consultants to practitioners dealing with pet and exotic bird problems and 4) exploration of the possibility of obtaining Allied Group program status in the Western States Veterinary Conference (Las Vegas) for attending practitioners interested in Avian Medicine.

The specialty session held at the AAHA Meeting in Los Angeles was organized by Drs. Ralph Cooper and Charles Galvin and was very well received by over 110 attendees. Topics included management of common clinical problems of pet and exotic birds with emphasis on psittacosis. Psittacosis is emerging as a common problem in psittacine birds and detection procedures for this disease and viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease (VVND) (recently confirmed again in Southern California) were discussed.

There appears to have been some movement toward local organization by veterinary practitioners with interests in avian diseases. Word was received at the Los Angeles meeting of groups meeting in the Pacific Northwest, Michigan and a planned meeting of a Southern California group. These are in addition to the established Northern California Association of Avian Practitioners.

In spite of encouragement avian practitioners are not overwhelming the AAAP with membership applications. However, it is heartening to note some key names in our membership roster like Ted Lafeber, Ray Kray, Griffith Clark, Walter Roskopf, Margaret Petrak, Marjorie McMillan in addition to others within the AAAP with orientation to diseases of pet and exotic birds. There are many, many more very capable professionals in this category that would bring valued expertise to our organization. The AAAP Board of Directors is urged to consider the role of veterinarians oriented primarily to wild, pet or exotic birds in the organization.

There is an opportunity for AAAP sponsorship (as an Allied Group) of an Avian Medicine program within the Western States Veterinary Conference. This meeting is held in February each

year at a fixed location (Las Vegas) and could provide an excellent location for a regional conference for those practicing veterinarians from the western states. Poultry diseases are well covered in the Western Poultry Disease Conference but there is no meeting forum currently for veterinarians primarily interested in caged birds. The Western States Conference provides program and room arrangements and a speakers budget for Allied Groups. This possibility is suggested for consideration by the AAAP Board of Directors.

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