

TENTATIVE REPORT
(not reviewed by committee)

DISEASES OF PET BIRDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee on Pet Birds Diseases spent the past year considering several matters. Among these were:

The status of endangered species of exotic birds smuggled in from Mexico.

The development of methods for diagnosis of Chlamydia infection in conjunction with the Chlamydia Committee - the status of the National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan as put forth by the U.S.A.H.A.

The development of a pet bird disease reporting system.

Meetings were held namely in Las Vegas, Nevada and in Davis, California, along with the exchange of ideas by correspondence.

Some of the following conclusions were reached in part:

The endangered species smuggling should be ameliorated through cooperation between the United States and Mexico in devising remedies to remove this situation.

Chlamydial diagnostic procedures should be further researched and developed.

The NCABIP Program is still awaiting a Congressional enablement act. In the meantime, a working paper has been prepared as a guideline for carrying out the program. This, of course, is still open to suggestions and revision.

Much time was spent on developing a tentative pet bird disease reporting system.

It would appear that the consensus of opinion regarding a reporting system is that present methods are inconclusive, non-productive and too variable. Reporting on the basis of species and disease seems to be the more preferred method.

In formulating a national reporting system, definite parameters should be established. These should be based on certain criteria, which are:

First and foremost -- is the information being produced useful - to whom and for what purpose.

Second -- what is the source of the information - the diagnostic laboratory and/or the avian practitioner.

Third -- what disciplines are employed in making a diagnosis - necropsy or examination or both.

Fourth -- can any trends be established from information reported as to exacerbation or diminution of certain diseases in different species of birds.

Lastly -- are the methods and mechanics employed in the reporting system feasible and uniform?

The Committee suggests the establishment of a reporting form which can be computerized. It should be based upon the following data:

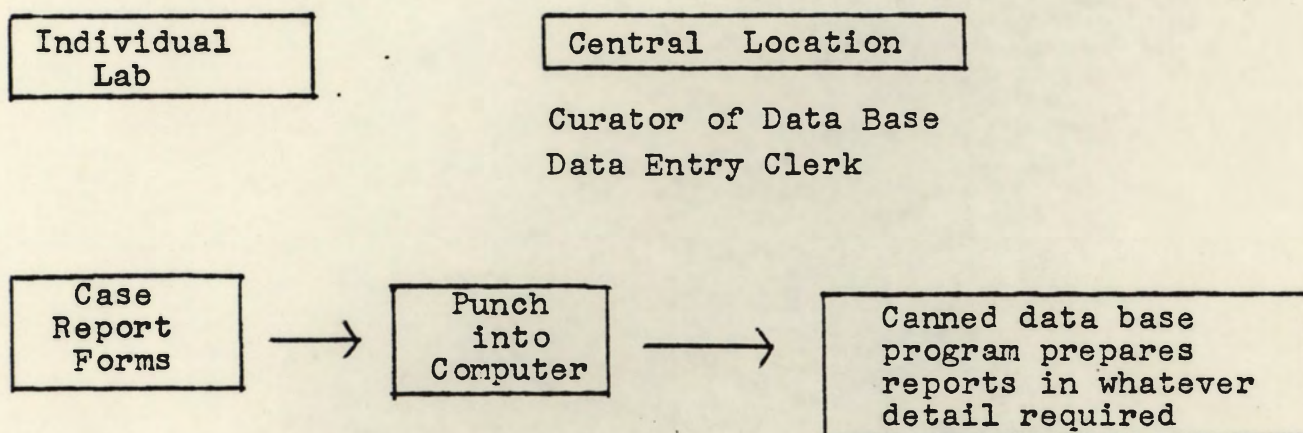
Species, age, sex, source of data (lab or practitioner)
origin of bird, 1st and 2nd diagnosis, is diagnosis
related to a public health problem, what is diagnosis
impact upon poultry.

Example:

Case No.	Date		State
Source of Information		Sex	Age
Lab	Practitioner		
Origin of Bird			
1st diagnosis	2nd diagnosis	Public Health Related	
Impact on Poultry	Diagnostic Methods		
		Necropsy	
		Bacteriology	
		Virology	
		Parasitology	
		Histopathology	
		Clinical Exam	

The resulting material can be compiled and reported upon yearly from a central computer source. This would provide meaningful data showing trends in the occurrence, sources of different diseases in pet birds.

The setting up of a computerized system for the report is not all that complicated. Computer experts consulted at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Pa., have said that if a data base is established containing all pertinent information, reports of any kind can be generated. The report can range from simple print-out of data base (very detailed and lengthy) to reports which summarize the information by species, state or disease.



These recommendations are all open to further modification now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kahan

I. Howard Kahan, Co-Chairman
A. S. Rosenwald, Co-Chairman

en