

Cage and aviary birds

Dr. R. E. Baer outlined numerous concerns of the \$1 billion cage pet bird industry and communicated the trauma felt by aviculturists, animal lovers, shop owners and conservationists as regards current VVND prevention and eradication policies of the USDA.

Some of the major concerns are:

1. Large scale destruction of VVND exposed or suspect birds when quarantine and repetitive swabbing may have been a more humane, less expensive and more conservation oriented approach.
2. Failure of expenditures for bird import quarantine and inspection to curtail the problem of continued smuggling of nearly 1 million birds into the USA annually. There is a consensus that smuggling is the main cause of VVND outbreaks in the United States.
3. Delay due to the inherent factors involved in isolation and characterization of VVND from bird specimens shipped to the Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa.

Dr. Baer reported that many aviculturists, dealers and veterinarians believe the time has come to re-evaluate current diagnostic, preventive and eradication rationales and to explore alternative methods. He further emphasized that large scale domestic breeding of all species of cage and aviary birds may be the ultimate solution to the smuggling problem, conservation concerns, importation worries, and pet supply needs. It has been estimated that 700,000 birds are legally imported, 1 million smuggled and 1,130,000 domestically bred. These ratios need to be changed in favor of domestic breeding.

After some discussion, the committee passed motions recommending:

1. Support for establishment of a mechanism for formal dialogue between the pet bird and poultry industries, regulatory and research people on the problem of VVND eradication.
2. Encouragement by government for domestic propagation of captive, cage and aviary birds.

MYCOPLASMOSIS

The committee directed its concern to increasingly recognized needs for better control of avian mycoplasmosis in multiple age layer flocks and for the availability of reference laboratory support for official mycoplasma classification of suspect breeder flocks.

The committee passed resolutions in support of funding for:

1. eradication of avian mycoplasmosis from multiple age laying flocks
2. and establishing highly dependable, strategically located laboratories for evaluation of mycoplasma reactors in officially classified breeding flocks.

The resolutions took into account recommendations and observations of mycoplasmosis committees of the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases, American Association of Avian Pathologists and National Poultry Improvement Plan.

FOWL TYPHOID

Dr. G. H. Snoeyenbos reported observations of major industry problems with fowl typhoid in Mexico and South America. He urged development of a comprehensive effort to eliminate all foci of fowl typhoid in the USA to preclude any spread of this costly, lethal infection to commercial poultry. The committee repeated its concerns about this disease, noting that no action was taken from 1979 motions regarding fowl typhoid. Further progress among the remaining 25 states toward attainment of "U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean" status was cited as a highly desirable deterrent against fowl typhoid.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND OTHER TOPICS

Dr. Daryl King urged the committee to explore development of a systematic approach toward the establishment, presentation and support of poultry disease research requests to the USDA. He emphasized the need for a coordinated follow-through on selected research funding priorities by both veterinary and industry professional and trade associations. Various possibilities for such a coordinated systematic approach were discussed. The committee recommends that the USAHA convey veterinary research priorities through the Forum of Animal Agriculture, a group that may be able to provide the necessary leadership and coordination.

Dr. C. Beard brought the Committee's attention to an additional strain of infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) which is now being used in a federal licensed vaccine. The sale of the new serotype vaccine is restricted to a specific area.

Since IBV vaccines can cause respiratory and other problems, it was suggested that more careful attention should be given to licensing of additional IBV vaccines. The indiscriminant use of IBV serotypes in areas in which such serotypes do not exist could be extremely troublesome. It is urged that caution should be exercised before licensing new IBV vaccines. The same kind of consideration should also be given to new Newcastle disease vaccines.

The following subcommittees were formed:

AVIAN INFLUENZA: R. A. Bankowski, C. Beard, V. Hinshaw, D. King, J. E. Pearson, I. Peterson and B. S. Pomeroy, Chairman.

MYCOPLASMOSIS: W. Dungan, K. Hand, D. Johnson, B. S. Pomeroy, R. Yamamoto, I. Peterson, and E. T. Mallinson, Chairman.

POULTRY FLOCK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: R. A. Bankowski, F. Craig, H. Goldstein, B. Nicholas, J. E. Pearson, I. Peterson, E. I. Pilchard, B. Pomeroy, P. Smith, C. Weston, D. Zander, and R. McCapes, Chairman.

CAGE AND AVIARY BIRDS: R. Cooper, G. J. Harrison, B. Levine, E. Mallinson, H. Nadler, J. Pearson, and A. C. Rissen, Jr. and R. E. Baer, Chairman

U.S. POULTRY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO APHIS: E. Bryant, H. Goldstein, R. Hogue, I. Peterson, B. Pomeroy, T. Ryan, and R. McCapes, Chairman

Newcastle Disease Reevaluation: R. A. Bankowski,

M. Brugh, R. P. Hanson, J. E. Pearson and L. Grumbles,

Chairman.

Sub committee of Poultry Health Committee

Some outbreaks velogenic but not virulent
Need to reassess what we are trying to
eradicate.

Markers other than birds to define.