

**ANIMAL WELFARE AND MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky
July 23, 1996

- Dr. A. Pescatore from the University of Kentucky was invited to share his views on the present and future challenges of poultry welfare in the U.S. The highlights of his presentation were as follows:
 - ⇒ The industry needs to address environmental, food safety and welfare issues that will impact public opinion. These must be regarded as priorities. The old strategy "ignore it and it will go away" will no longer be effective in the age of misinformation (i.e., 385 sites dealing with animal welfare on the Internet; PETA alone has 30 - 40 press releases).
 - ⇒ Layers in cages is the most publicized poultry welfare issue.
 - ⇒ Animal right activists groups are better organized and funded than welfarists. Their target audience is middle class families. Animal right activists are directing their attacks to poultry researchers and companies producing poultry products. If their views and opinions are repeated enough (information overload) they can easily become "facts".
 - ⇒ After reviewing a list of current welfare issues in poultry, Dr. Pescatore stated that it is very important that our industry and welfare organizations appoint SPOKESPERSONS and give them appropriate training to deal with the media.

Dr. A. Pescatore has recently joined our committee.

- Dr. K. E. Anderson from North Carolina State University accepted Dr. J. Kula's invitation (liaison with Poultry Science Association) to review the PSA activities regarding poultry welfare.
 - ⇒ PSA has prepared a bibliography on slaughter procedures (database). Copies are available upon request.
 - ⇒ Their group is working with the Journal of Animal Care in order to standardize poultry care for researchers.
 - ⇒ PSA conducted their first symposium on Poultry Welfare in Edmonton, Canada. Proceedings will be available soon.
 - ⇒ They are planning another symposium in 2 -3 years. They are considering joining forces with other poultry welfare organizations.
 - ⇒ They helped to review the latest version of the General Guidelines for Poultry Husbandry (guide for the care and use of agricultural animal).
 - ⇒ Their membership is aware that industry and research institutions need to be prepared to respond to welfare issues and help in developing future legislation. They started to create a database of information by surveying practices and issues among PSA members.
 - ⇒ The PSA Welfare Committee sees the need for research in areas of poultry welfare (poultry well being) and poultry behavior.

- After Dr. Anderson's presentation the discussion focused on the following issues:
 - ⇒ AAAP - Animal Welfare Committee needs to designate a spokesperson.
 - ⇒ We need to have coalitions with other poultry organizations such as PSA, NBC, NTF and UEP.
- Dr. T. Morishita (liaison with AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee) informed the group that she is developing a database of welfare issues and zoonotic diseases.
- Dr. M. A. Hammarlund distributed copies of The Animal Care Series from the University of California (Layers, Broilers and Turkeys). He also reported on the meeting of the AAAP Board where the following resolutions were made:
 1. The AAAP Board approved our request for a Symposium on poultry welfare to be held in 1998 in Baltimore.
 2. The title suggested and approved was Poultry Management and Production (to avoid unwanted attention by animal right activists).
 3. AAAP will provide \$6,000.00 for speakers and proceedings.
 4. The Symposium speakers must be available for the AAAP program.
 5. International speakers are welcomed but costs must be within budget.
 6. The next meeting for the AAAP - Board of Directors is set for January 24, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta (Southeastern Poultry Show).
 7. It was suggested our committee liaise with the Public Health Regulatory Veterinary Medical Committee.
- Another subcommittee was appointed to examine welfare issues related to turkeys. Doctors Hugo Medina and William H. Emory kindly accepted to serve in this subcommittee.
- Doctors J. McCarty and G. Rosales met with the Association of Veterinarians in Broiler Production (July 22, 1996). Our colleagues in broilers appreciated the information on our committee and goals. They agreed on the need to cooperate with us.
- It was suggested we have our next meeting in Atlanta during the 1997 International Poultry Trade Show in January. Meantime it was agreed to submit suggestions and names of potential speakers for our future Symposium to A. G. Rosales (Committee Chair).