

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS

Americana Hotel, July 29, 1963

Report of Committee to Study Postdoctoral Training in Avian Medicine

During the year the committee has continued a study previously begun entailing the matter of postdoctoral training in the area of poultry practice. There are, of course, many facets to this concept of a program of postdoctoral training or residency in avian medicine. The committee, therefore, decided to limit its activities and to consider only the following:

1. Is there a genuine need for such a training program?
2. If there is a need, what areas should be covered in this postdoctoral training?
3. What, if any, changes or modifications in present day graduate programs could be made to satisfy this training program?
4. How and by whom might this program best be handled, directed or supervised?
5. By what name might this program be designated?
6. What form of recognition or certification should be given?
7. Who would establish the standards, rules and regulations, approval of training programs and institutions, etc.?
8. Are we not in reality leading to a specialty type of veterinary practice?

The committee recognizes that there is an urgent need for a training program at the postdoctoral level whereby veterinarians who wish to increase their competence and experience in the area of poultry practice may, through formal and special training, develop a professional career and render a service to the poultry industry.

The committee further recognizes that unless the veterinary profession raises its standards of excellence and competence in concert with the highly efficient poultry industry and develops a sufficient number of specialists to direct and supervise the poultry health programs, there will be no significant reason to include poultry in the area of animal health and economy of the veterinary profession.

The committee recognizes that even under the optimum curricula existing in schools of veterinary medicine it is neither possible, nor is it feasible nor desirable, to provide an adequate training in poultry practice. The degree of training and specialized knowledge required of the poultry practitioner today can only be acquired through specialized study of the problems of the poultry industry. This is becoming increasingly true in other so-called specialized areas of veterinary practice.

Postdoctoral training in poultry practice must include a knowledge of diagnostic procedures - clinical and laboratory, treatment and control including a knowledge of management practices and the role of preventive medicine in a poultry enterprise. This can best be accomplished by establishing an organized (residency type) program, including training in pathology, microbiology, parasitology, nutrition, genetics and the management aspects of poultry industry.

Present day graduate programs, M.S. and Ph.D., in the basic disciplines of pathology, microbiology or parasitology could satisfy much of the formal organized training requirements; however, a practical residency in diagnostic laboratory and field disease control under approved supervision should be essential to the success of the program.

A formal graduate degree need not be required of the candidate in as much as possession of an M.S. or Ph.D. degree in one of the basic disciplines is not per se sufficient evidence of adequate training to qualify a candidate. The candidate should have at least two years of supervised study and experience in disease diagnosis, field and laboratory, involving nutrition, genetics, environment, and formal programs in disciplines related to disease prevention and control.

It is the committee's recommendation that the training program be directed and supervised at those institutions where there are a diversity of professional staff and formal (teaching) programs in existence, such as veterinary schools and departments of veterinary science in Colleges of Agriculture. The practical residency portion of the program might be arranged in large, adequately staffed, supervised and equipped poultry diagnostic laboratories, located elsewhere than the institution above provided there exists complete cooperation and coordination with the director of training.

Various names have been proposed for this program. Because this program entails all phases of poultry practice it is in effect a program of avian medicine. To label it Poultry Pathology or Avian Diagnostics or similar restrictive designations would be unfair. It is truly a phase of veterinary medical practice. Therefore, avian medicine might be the most logical designation, or possibly - avian pathology and medicine.

The committee feels that completion of the training program should and must entitle the candidate to a special recognition - certificate, diploma or board diplomate. Unless this is done, i.e., unless the program is of top quality with high standards, the effort would be meaningless.

The committee, with expressions from various persons in the poultry industry, is satisfied that the industry will recognize and take appropriate cognizance of such specially trained veterinarians. It is their opinion that once this program is inaugurated, the industry will demand and look to these veterinary specialists.

The committee hopes that in the interests of the success and future development of a postdoctoral training program in avian medicine, that the AAAP will acknowledge the need and will take the initiative to establish and administer this program.

The committee recognizes that the proposed program would lead to the establishment of a veterinary medical specialty. They further recognize that the AAAP should sponsor and direct the program, and that the program should be established under the agency of veterinary specialties of the AVMA.

For the committee, I move this report be accepted.

The committee now moves that in order to raise the level of competency and of improving the quality of service rendered by veterinarians in the area of avian medicine and to protect the "...public against incompetence....", the AAAP hereby authorizes the establishment of a veterinary specialty to be known as Avian Medicine. (Avian Pathology and Medicine).

It further moves that the President of AAAP, with approval of the Board of Directors, selects from the membership 3 to 5 veterinarians who are members in good standing of the AVMA and who through training and experience are eminent and best qualified in the area of avian pathology and medicine to serve as the Organizing Committee and; that this committee proceed with the establishment of a specialty board in Avian (Pathology and Medicine) within the framework of specialty boards in the AVMA and to be hereafter designated as the American Board of Avian (Pathology and) Medicine.

The committee pleads completion of its objectives and duties and requests dissolution of its activity.

J. O. Alberts
J. Fabricant
L. C. Grumbles
M. S. Hofstad
A. L. Kleckner, Chairman

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