

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT/PRODUCER/  
INDUSTRY/CONSUMER RELATIONSHIPS

1970

The need for becoming actively involved in consumer affairs as an organization has been brought into sharper focus, more than ever, this past year in several areas. This has been particularly true with regard to the problem of leukosis and/or Marek's disease. Various press releases concerning consumer safety and poultry inspection and condemnation have frequently presented a confusing picture. No doubt most AAAP members are aware of this. Unfortunately, little action has been taken by the AAAP, or this committee, as neither is structured currently to do so. It is the recommendation of several members of this committee, as well as others outside the committee, that this be accomplished. Several suggestions have evolved that should be given careful consideration:

1. Dissolve this ad hoc committee as it can accomplish little directly in initiating appropriate action. It lacks the responsibility, by purpose and by direction, to aggressively pursue specific liaison and make recommendations outside the AAAP.

2. Use the expertise existing within existing committees, even if it means re-appointing or re-organizing them, to deal directly with problems as they arise. As examples, the leukosis and salmonella committees could well serve consumer and government liaison. Individuals serve in these committees that are, for the most part, actively involved in these problems in various degrees and can deal more authoritatively with them as representatives of the AAAP than can anyone else or other committees.

3. Possibly form such new committees, as needed, but streamline them - especially in reporting - as is being done by our current president. Examples would be: poultry processing and grading, biologics, drug surveillance, to name a few.

4. Individual representatives from these committees could serve in a liaison capacity with other organizations: AVMA committees, Animal Health Institute, Consumer Marketing Service etc. Specifically, avian medicine (AAAP) should have more representation within AVMA committees. This is currently lacking. The president of the AAAP could charge these members with certain responsibilities or delegate the necessary powers to them. Ultimately, there must be a delegation of responsibility so that appropriate action can be taken during the year to circumvent waiting until the annual meeting as is presently being done.

5. The AAAP may want to eventually sponsor a work-shop on consumer problems. Alternatively, this could be held cooperatively with other groups. The University of California, Davis, sponsored workshops in 1969 and 1970. This committee feels that some of our most pressing problems could be aired more satisfactorily at meetings of this type. From such workshops, it is possible that a better plan of action for this entire area may come forth.

6. Elements of time and money on the part of the organization, committees and individuals are important problems when it comes to direct action. Obviously, with both lacking, we must operate within the framework of practicality and this will limit what really gets done.

The chairman of this committee does not feel that we have made satisfactory progress to date. Our suggestions should be carefully studied by the president and directors at the annual meeting. Suggestions and recommendations are solicited from the membership to accomplish the task.

R. W. Winterfield, Chairman

C. R. Casorso

R. R. Chalquist

M. S. Cover

R. E. Luginbuhl

D. D. Oshel

J. E. Porter

A. R. Rosenwald

D. C. young

F. R. Craig, Ex-officio

R. A. Bagly, Ex-officio