

Animal Care Committee Report

2007 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 4, 2007



The NIAA Animal Care Committee met on Wednesday, April 04, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 12:15 AM, PDT, during the NIAA 2007 Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California with over 40 people present. Drs. Jerome Geiger and Chris Ashworth served as the Co-Chairs for the committee.

The committee session focused on mass depopulations and current welfare-related issues in media headlines. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to those topics.

Dr. Kevin Varner, USDA, APHIS, VS - Mass Depopulations: Strategies, Technologies and Considerations

Dr. Varner came well prepared with a wealth of experience, which he openly shared. Dr. Varner shared details from several large-scale depopulating campaigns. The audience appreciated his expertise and candor. On several occasions, healthy dialogue evolved spontaneously.

Dr. Ashworth presented a comprehensive overview of media topics involving animal agriculture (usually welfare-related). Dr. Ashworth framed the topics in “why is this important to me?” He also challenged the audience to plan a method of responding to the issues, in some cases proactively. There was healthy audience participation, which led nicely into the business portion of the meeting.

New Business:

- No resolutions or position statements were proposed.
- No existing resolutions or position statements were amended or revised
- No resolutions or position statements were removed

General Discussion:

Dr. Ashworth led an active discussion following a theme “Will we idly stand by?” During the discussion, the committee agreed Drs. Geiger and Ashworth should carry the discussion to the NIAA Board of Directors, with the following recommendations:

- Animal Care and “Animal Well Being” should be the focal point of next year’s NIAA annual meeting. “Let me tell you how I care for my animal charges” was proposed as a theme. This would include political, social, production and legislative issues related to animal welfare in all of the species groups.
- Encourage University awareness and participation by professors, and Deans of Colleges of Agriculture and Colleges of Veterinary Medicine regarding animal welfare issues in all species.
- Review the findings of the National Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production. Final report from this task force is expected in March of 2008.
- Review legislative agendas on animal welfare from around the country both on a state and national level. This could be in cooperation with the Animal Agriculture Alliance, NCBA, and Dr. Carolyn Orr with the City, County and State Governments.
- Encourage NIAA to more actively pursue aquaculture members and issues.

Dr. Geiger and Dr. Ashworth would recommend asking the Board of Directors to rename the Committee to Animal Care and Well Being

Committee Session adjourned at 12:15 AM.