

**Animal Care
Committee Report**

2008 Mid Year Report

September 2008



Chair: Dr. Jerome O. Geiger, PIC North America

Vice Chair: Dr. Gail Golab, American Veterinary Medical Association

The Animal Care Committee has not formally met since the annual NIAA meeting April 2008. Since that meeting, the committee's major activity has been the proposal (jointly with the NIAA Equine Health Committee) and eventual Board approval of an Equine Transportation and Processing Resolution.

The Animal Care Committee directs the Board's attention to the Proposition 2, "ballot initiative concerning housing systems for farm animals" that will go to California voters this fall. This proposition would impact the housing systems of caged layers, gestating swine, and veal calves. This proposition has received much attention in the nation's agricultural press (e.g. Feedstuffs), so the Board is no doubt aware. What (if any) action does the NIAA wish to take regarding this proposition? The NIAA Animal Care Committee stands ready to do its part.

The committee chair, vice-chair, and various members have also closely followed an "Animal Welfare" definition proposed by the OIE, and assisted the USDA in the formulation of a formal response and alternative definition. The definition was formally presented by the OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission and could serve as a foundation for future OIE dialogue, documents, and policies. Hence, the wording and scope of such a definition will have future global implications.

The Animal Care Committee has not yet addressed topics or an agenda for the 2009 committee meeting. We hope to appropriately tie our program to the general theme of the 2009 meeting.

Is it the desire of the Board to build on the 2008 NIAA program? While welfare is a timely and contentious topic in animal agriculture at present and likely will be for the foreseeable future, the role NIAA chooses in the welfare arena will be determined by the NIAA Board. Again, the NIAA Animal Care Committee stands ready to do its part.