

**Animal Care
Committee Report**

2008 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008



The Animal Care Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm EST, during the 2008 NIAA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana with 75-80 people present. Dr. Jer Geiger served as the Chair, and Dr. Gail Golab served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on current welfare issues in a variety of species and actions taken by species organizations to address welfare issues, both internally and publicly. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to animal care, present and future:

Dr. Robert Stout, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, presented "Animal Welfare 2007-2008: A Kentucky perspective" [on the ban on equine slaughter]. Dr. Stout provided his PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. He provided a lot of detailed information in his slides and discussion. This is a considerable issue in Kentucky and likely across the US.

Dr. Rachel Cezar, USDA/APHIS Animal Care, presented "Soring." Dr. Cezar provided a PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. She showed a 14-minute USDA video giving detailed information on the causes, clinical signs, effect on the horse, and examination techniques for soring. This training technique is considered inhumane but is relatively restricted to specific breeds, breeders, and geography.

Dr. Gail Golab, American Veterinary Medical Association, presented "Euthanasia." Dr. Golab provided a PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. Her presentation defined euthanasia and appropriate/inappropriate techniques and applications.

Dr. Jeff Goodwin, Colorado State University, presented "The Politics of Issues Like Lamb Taildocking." Dr. Goodwin provided a PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. Using a "youth program" background, he provided examples of holding people accountable for good husbandry practices and the possible repercussions.

Gene Gregory, United Egg Producers, presented "Poultry Industry UEP." Mr. Gregory did not use a PowerPoint presentation. He provided a detailed explanation of the actions United Egg Producers (UEP) have taken and are taking to address challenges to their industry in the welfare arena. In reality, the response goes far beyond care issues, defining good husbandry practices addressing welfare and food safety issues.

Bryon Scott, American Veal Association, presented "American Veal: Excellence in agriculture." Mr. Scott provided a PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. He provided a detailed explanation of the thought processes and actions American Veal Association (AVA) have taken to address challenges in the welfare arena.

Dr. Sherrie Niekamp, National Pork Board, presented "The Pork Industry: Shaping our future." Dr. Niekamp provided a PowerPoint presentation for use on the NIAA website. She provided a detailed explanation of the actions taken by the swine industry to address welfare, husbandry, and transport issues.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- No changes to existing resolutions

Committee Session adjourned at 5:15 pm EST.