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The Committee met on Wednesday, October 30 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, from 8 AM to 11:50 AM. There were 48 members and 23 guests present.

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AAAP Broiler Chicken Lighting Review

Dr. Suzanne Dougherty, Executive Vice President of the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP), presented on the AAAP broiler chicken lighting review.

The amount, intensity, and color of light is important in different stages in poultry production. It affects the ability to get chicks on feed, gain, and reproduction issues. However, too much lighting results in higher mortality and leg issues. Bird size, sex, and genetic breed effect how the birds respond to light.

Various animal welfare audits and certification programs require different intensities and durations of lighting. The recommendations within different programs have evolved over the years. Most certification programs reference non-US literature.

The AAAP animal welfare committee has asked Tom Table, Ph.D., Mississippi State University, to produce a white paper looking at the more than 180 scientific papers regarding all aspects of lighting. A draft of the paper is currently under review by AAAP.

Animal Health Risks of Importing Dogs and Cats as Rescues

Dr. Lynne White-Shim, USDA APHIS

Passed by Congress in 1966, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) seeks to ensure the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals that are used or intended for use in research, exhibition, or as pets. In August 2014, APHIS amended the AWA to require that dogs imported into the United States for resale are healthy, vaccinated, and are over six months of age, with limited exceptions. Since November 2014, importers, prior to import, are required to demonstrate proof of age, vaccination, and health of dogs imported for resale. In this context, "resale" includes, but is not limited to, dogs imported for sale in wholesale channels, at retail, and for adoption after arrival in the United States, as well as dogs imported for other purposes involving transfer of ownership or control of imported dogs to another person for more than de minimis consideration. APHIS maintains limited exceptions for this rule, which dogs imported for resale with veterinary treatment needs not able to be provided in the country of export, research purposes, as well as dogs imported into Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, and New Zealand.

APHIS has seen significant growth in this area in the last couple years. In FY 2019, APHIS issued 2,002 permits covering 6,263 dogs entering the United States, compared to 579 permits covered 2,050 dogs in FY 2018. To ensure the Agency is providing high quality customer service to importers, APHIS has automated the permitting process. Importers can now obtain a permit online, resulting in 50 percent faster permit processing, from 135/month prior to the upgrade to 253/month in the 2 months after implementation.

Managing Analgesia on Farms

Dr. Abbie Viscardi, Research Assistant Professor at Kansas State University, spoke on managing analgesia on farms with a focus on castration and dehorning.

Pain results in changes to behavior and physiology. Sources of pain in livestock production systems include elective procedures, such as surgical castration, tail docking, and dehorning/ debudding.

There are numerous challenges in managing livestock pain, including it being difficult to recognize pain.

Dr. Viscardi discussed pain assessment tools including behavior, plasma cortisol (from blood, hair, or saliva), algometery (pressure tolerance at the surgical site), infrared thermography, and pressure mat analysis. Dr. Viscardi also discussed options to eliminate painful husbandry procedures, such as the polled gene.

The FDA, National Pork Board, and AASV are partnering on a pain mitigation assessment protocol working group in swine.

Pain management literature for goats and sheep in the United States is limited, primarily due to lower animal numbers. There is greater U.S. literature for cattle.

Fatigued Cattle Syndrome

Dr. Tiffany Lee with the North American Meat Institute spoke about fatigued cattle syndrome.

The mobility of finished cattle presented for slaughter gained attention after an adverse animal welfare event was reported in 2013, heightening awareness of and concern about severe fatigue and its effects, a condition now defined as "Fatigued Cattle Syndrome."[1,] A similar condition has been described in swine where a portion of hogs exposed to stress at the time of transport display decreased mobility, and in extreme cases, become non-ambulatory as the result of metabolic acidosis and muscle fatigue. Reports of Fatigued Cattle Syndrome, or FCS, typically occur in the hot summer months and manifest with clinical signs such as tachypnea, muscle tremors, a stiff gait with shortened strides, reluctance to move, and in severe cases, sloughing of the hoof wall. Reports involving cattle diagnosed with FCS describe radical

elevations in certain hematological variables such as lactate, creatine kinase (CK), and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) when compared to normal reference ranges.

Measuring mobility scores and identifying the possible causes of decreased mobility can help producers further up the transport chain understand which practices to implement that will promote better health and mobility of fed cattle, and perhaps decrease the incidence of FCS in cattle presented to slaughter. For example, widespread use of mitigation strategies such as regular exercise and low-stress handling techniques may help address the most common mobility issues fed cattle experience. Further research is needed to more fully explore the risk factors associated with FCS.

Access to Compounded Drugs for Use in Wildlife

Dr. Gail C. Golab, Chief Veterinary Officer of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) spoke regarding access to compounded drugs for use in wildlife.

Compounding, consistent with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Extra-Label Drug Use regulations, is the customized manipulation of an FDA-approved animal or human drug(s) by a veterinarian, or by a pharmacist upon the prescription of a veterinarian, to meet the needs of a particular patient. Compounding drugs from unapproved (bulk) substances for animals is currently illegal under the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) and Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA). That said, the AVMA recognizes that compounding of drugs from unapproved bulk substances for use in animals not intended for food (e.g., major and minor non-food animal species) is medically necessary when approved product is not commercially available, needed compounded preparation cannot be made from the approved product, or no approved product is available from which to compound the needed preparation. AVMA believes compounding from bulk substances should be allowed for non-food animals in these situations, but ONLY in the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

In response to a 2012 outbreak of fungal meningitis caused by a contaminated compounded corticosteroid product that sickened more than 750 people and killed 64, Congress passed the Drug Quality and Security Act of 2013. That law gave FDA more regulatory authority and enforcement ability over compounded products, but did not specifically address products compounded for animals. As a result, in 2015, FDA issued draft guidance on the compounding of drugs in veterinary settings. Prior to responding, the AVMA sought input from its Councils and Committees, as well as species- and practice-specific veterinary associations. This included 91-pages of comments from those working with animals in wild or zoo settings, which provided clear evidence that unwarranted restrictions on access to compounded drugs posed serious animal care and welfare concerns.

As part of its draft guidance, FDA referenced quality standards found in USP chapters <795> and <797>. AVMA initially didn't have concerns with these chapters as referenced in FDA draft guidance #230, but later learned that some aspects of these chapters were, in fact, problematic. And, when USP announced revisions to its chapters in 2018, even more concerns became apparent, including likely negative impacts of beyond-use-date assignments. During the spring and summer of 2019, AVMA staff met with USP staff and submitted written comments to share veterinary compounding practices, as well as requests for the creation of a veterinary-specific compounding chapter and a postponement of adoption of the current draft chapters until such time as a veterinary-specific chapter could be completed. While USP indicated its willingness to consider a veterinary-specific compounding chapter, it initially declined the AVMA's request for postponement. Subsequently multiple appeals were filed by other individuals and organizations, and USP has postponed implementation of <795> and <797> until such time as all appeals have been resolved.

Diminishing Options for Mortality Disposal and Animal Welfare

Dr. David Smith, Director, Division of Animal Industry, New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, spoke regarding diminishing options for mortality disposal and animal welfare.

The past 30 years have seen a steady decline in livestock owners' options for carcass disposal. Injured and disabled large animals which previously could have been sold for slaughter are no longer eligible due to both humane concerns and public health concerns. Consumers' high regard for horses now precludes nearly all pet food manufacturers from sourcing protein from equines. Most recently, the discovery of euthanasia solution residues in pet food has caused renderers who market protein, protein meal, and rendered fats to the pet food industry to be unwilling to accept farm mortalities.

Dr. Smith discussed the lack of rendering options, its impacts on animal agriculture, how it adversely affects animal welfare, and possible ways to lessen the problem.

Committee Business:

There were no resolutions presented or other committee discussion.