

## MINUTES

### AAFCO PET FOOD COMMITTEE AAFCO 2013 MIDYEAR MEETING

January 23, 2013 - Wednesday - 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Pavilion I-III  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

#### 1. Introduction of Pet Food Committee Members and Advisors

Chair Elizabeth (Liz) Higgins (NM) called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm. The following Pet Food Committee (PFC) members and advisors were introduced:

##### Committee Members

Liz Higgins (NM) Co-Chair  
Jan Jarman (MN) Co-Chair  
Kristen Green (KY) Vice-Chair  
Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM)  
Stan Cook (MO)  
Sam Davis (SC)  
Roger Hoestenbach (TX)  
Eric Nelson (FDA-CVM)  
Johanna Phillips (ID)

##### Industry Advisors

Dr. David Dzanis (ACVN, APPA)  
David Fairfield  
Dr. Jean Hofve (PWA)  
David Meeker (NRA)  
Angela Mills (NGFA)  
Dr. Angele Thompson (PFI)  
Pat Tovey (PFI)  
Jason Vickers (AFIA)  
Leah Wilkinson (AFIA)

Committee members present by conference call were: Nate Bartz (WI), Donna Dicesare (NY) and Charlotte Conway (FDA-CVM).

#### 2. Announcements

Chair Liz Higgins (NM) apologized to the advisors because the list of advisors in the 2013 AAFCO Official Publication is incorrect. A correct list will be placed on the AAFCO website.

Chair Liz Higgins announced that Jan Jarman (MN) is the new Co-Chair of the Pet Food Committee (PFC). Liz welcomes Kristen Green (KY) as the new Vice-Chair of the PFC committee. Other new members include: Sam Davis (SC) and Stan Cook (MO). Other new advisors include: David Meeker with National Renderers Association (NRA), and Dr. Jean Hofve with Pet Welfare Alliance (PWA).

#### 3. Modifications to the Agenda

Co-Chair Liz Higgins (NM) requested an additional agenda item to address implementation of enforcement of the revised PF9 by states. A motion was made by Roger Hoestenbach (TX) to accept the additional agenda item, and was seconded by Sam Davis (SC). There was no discussion and the motion carried by voice vote.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes from 2012 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN**

No corrections were noted to the minutes from the August 2012 Annual Meeting held in Indianapolis, IN.

Jan Jarman (MN) moved to accept the minutes, and Kristen Green (KY) seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes of the Mid-Year meeting will be provided to committee members for approval by e-mail.

#### **5. Recommendation for Implementation of PF9**

The revised AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 which requires a calorie content statement on all pet food labels was passed in a vote from the general membership on January 22, 2013. The PFC had recommended that state enforcement be delayed by 18 months for new products in development and 3 years for existing products after the revised PF9 is printed in the AAFCO Official Publication (OP). However, the Board of Directors (BOD) amended this to recommend that the implementation time would be from January 22, 2013, not from the date of publication in the OP. This motion was tabled in general session due to concern that there was a conflict with the AAFCO by-laws based on the lack of discussion of the amendment in an open forum.

Jan Jarman (MN) moved that the PFC again recommend to the BOD that AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 not be enforced until 18 months for new products in development and three years for existing products after publication in the AAFCO OP. Nate Bartz (WI) seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried by voice vote.

#### **6. Reports from the AAFCO PFC Working Groups**

##### **A. Small Manufacturers Working Group/AAFCO Pet Food Website - Erin Bubb, PA Dept. of Agriculture.**

Liz Higgins (NM) provided an update as Erin Bubb (PA) was unable to attend. The website has been extremely successful. It has been noted that some of the original content and links are missing or non-functional due to the transfer of the site to the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) server. These issues have been forwarded on to FASS for correction.

Liz reminded everyone to contact the Pet Food Committee (PFC) with any non-functioning links or ideas regarding additional content for this site.

##### **B. Nutrient Profiles and Feeding Protocols Expert Committee – *Proposed Revisions to the AAFCO Dog and Cat Food Nutrient Profiles and Feeding Protocols* - Dr. William Burkholder, FDA-CVM**

Dr. Burkholder stated that the Expert Committee (EC) has been in existence since 2007. The EC addressed comments to the initial proposals and provided revisions to the initial proposal on May 30, 2012. The Pet Food Committee (PFC) has had

the EC recommendations since June 2012, as well as a letter from FDA-CVM stating FDA-CVM's concerns about the calcium and phosphorus recommendations for the Growth & Reproduction Nutrient Profile for dogs.

The PFC accepted the EC report, but took no further action at the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis in August 2012. The EC recommendations remain unaltered from their submission on May 2012. The American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN) provided the PFC with additional comments in support of not providing lower minimum calcium and phosphorus levels for growth of large size dogs.

Liz Higgins (NM) expressed the PFC's sincere appreciation to The Expert Committee for their extensive participation and hard work in this working group.

Jason Vickers (AFIA) expressed concern that additional comments provided to the PFC by FDA-CVM and ACVN had not been provided to the EC for follow-up comments. Liz Higgins (NM) stated that the additional documents had been circulated several times in the PFC with requests for concerns or comments, with none received. Therefore, there was no need to reconvene the EC. Liz Higgins asked if any PFC members had any questions at this time regarding the additional information that had been provided by FDA-CVM and ACVN. No questions or concerns were raised.

Jan Jarman (MN) moved that the PFC accept the recommendations of the Expert Committee and move it to the Board of Directors (BOD) - except for the calcium and phosphorus levels for growth and reproduction of dogs; and that the minimum level for alpha linolenic acid (ALA) and Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) plus Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) should be listed as 'ND' instead of 'zero', with a footnote explaining that 'ND = not determined'. The motion was seconded by Roger Hoestenbach (TX).

**DISCUSSION:** Discussions resulted in this motion undergoing several points of clarification and questions, which are summarized below.

- The motion should clarify the exact location of zeros to be replaced by 'ND' in the fatty acid profiles and the wording to be used for the footnotes to explain the meaning of 'ND'. The footnote for the Dog Food Nutrient Profiles should explain that some amount of alpha-linolenic (ALA), docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and/or eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) are needed in order to determine the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids.
- The wording of the motion needs to reflect the concerns about the proposed minimum values of calcium and phosphorus for growth and reproduction of large size dogs. Changes in maximum values are a separate issue for which no concerns have been raised.

Jan Jarman withdrew her motion and the agenda item was temporarily set aside while accurate language for a motion was crafted.

Jan Jarman (MN) moved that the PFC accept the expert committee's recommendation for changes to the AAFCO Nutrient Profiles and AAFCO Feeding Protocols with the following changes:

- 1) The zero values in the adult maintenance profiles for dogs for alpha linolenic acid (ALA) and for eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) + docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) should be changed to 'ND' and referenced to a footnote that reads 'ND = Not determined. While a minimum requirement has not been determined, sufficient amounts are necessary to meet the maximum fatty acid ratio';
- 2) The zero values in the adult maintenance profiles for cats for ALA and for EPA + DHA should be changed to 'ND' and referenced to a footnote that reads 'ND = Not determined'; and
- 3) The minimum levels for calcium and phosphorus in the dog food nutrient profile for growth and reproduction of all dogs should be 1.2% and 1.0% respectively on a DM basis or 3.0 and 2.5 g/1000 kcal ME respectively on a calorie content basis.

The motion was seconded by Roger Hoestenbach (TX). There was no discussion and the motion carried by voice vote.

**C. Carbohydrate Working Group** – Jan Jarman, MN Dept. of Agriculture

Jan Jarman (MN) stated that the Working Group has been discussing the recommendations for dietary starch and sugar claims and guarantees on pet food labels. While an initial draft report has been completed, additional work cannot proceed until laboratory methods have been validated by the AAFCO Laboratory Methods and Services Committee for the guarantees in question.

**D. AAFCO Pet Food & Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide and Label Review Checklist Working Group** – Johanna Phillips, ID Dept. of Agriculture

The Working Group for the Pet Food & Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide and Label Review Checklist has been formed. Assignments for different sections are in progress.

The Working Group hopes to have a draft Label Review Checklist available by the annual meeting to be held in August 2013.

**7. AAFCO Reg PF3 Brand & Product Names - Proposed Amendment of PF3(b)(1): Product Names Under the “95% Rule” - Dr. David Dzanis – American Pet Products Association (APPA)**

Dr. David Dzanis provided the Pet Food Committee (PFC) with a brief history of AAFCO Model Pet Food Regulation PF3(b)(1), product names under the “95% Rule”, and APPA’s proposal for amending PF3(b)(1). The amendment would provide the purchaser with a consistent product naming format, resolve the inequity in applicability of PF3(b)(1) for products containing large amounts of ingredients that are not animal based, and resolve the discrepancy between PF3(b)(1) and other product naming rules [primarily PF3(b)(2) and PF3(c)].

Angele Thompson recommended that PFC support the amendment. Chair Liz Higgins (NM) stated that the change should alleviate many concerns and confusion regarding proper use of product names.

The proposed amendment to Regulation PF3 (b)(1) is to strike the words limiting the types of ingredients allowed in meeting the “95% Rule” as follows:

*(b) An ingredient or combination of ingredients may form part of a product name of a pet food or specialty pet food:*

*(1) When the ingredient(s) ~~derived from animals, poultry or fish~~ constitutes at least 95% of the total weight of the product. Water sufficient for processing may be excluded when calculating the percentage, however, the ingredients shall constitute at least 70% of the total product weight.*

Johanna Phillips (ID) moved that ‘*derived from animals, poultry or fish*’ be stricken from PF3(b)(1). The motion was seconded by Sam Davis (SC). There was no discussion and the motion carried by voice vote.

**8. Update on the Draft Compliance Policy Guide for Labeling and Marketing of Nutritional Products Intended for Use to Diagnose, Cure, Mitigate, Treat, or Prevent Diseases in Dogs and Cats – Dr. William Burkholder, FDA-CVM**

Dr. Burkholder (FDA-CVM) provided an update on the Draft Compliance Policy Guide for Labeling and Marketing of Nutritional Products Intended for Use to Diagnose, Cure, Mitigate, Treat, or Prevent Diseases in Dogs and Cats. He stated that the draft policy guide was issued in September 2012 and the sixty (60) day comment period closed November 2012. There were a total of 4 comments received which are currently under review at FDA-CVM.

**9. Update on USDA NOP Certification of Organic Pet Foods – Angele Thompson, PFI**

Angele Thompson (PFI) gave a presentation on the USDA National Organic Program certification of organic pet foods that was provided by Dave Carter of Crystal Springs Consulting. The pet food standards are currently in rule making process and are listed as an NOP focus area for 2013. New information may be available in the Federal Register as soon as April 2013.

Susan Thixton (The Truth About Pet Food) asked several questions regarding the USDA NOP process. Angele Thompson stated that pet foods are currently considered under the livestock section of the NOP.

Liz Higgins expressed PFC's sincere appreciation to Angele Thompson with additional thanks to Dave Carter.

Liz Higgins stated that the committee will be taking agenda items for the annual 2013 AAFCO meeting no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in submitting an agenda item should follow the template used by Dave Dzanis (ACVN). This template will be provided upon request.

## **10. Adjourn Pet Food Committee Meeting**

Dr. Burkholder (FDA-CVM) moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Kristen Green (KY). The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.

### **Addendum #1**

Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM) discovered a change that needed to be made to a footnote in the Revised "AAFCO METHODS FOR SUBSTANTIATING NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY OF DOG AND CAT FOODS". It is footnote 'd' on page 5 and footnote 'c' on page 7 in the Dog Food Nutrient Profiles Based on Dry Matter and on Calorie Content, respectively. In the version of the revised Nutrient Profiles accepted by the Committee during this meeting, the footnotes read:

"ND – Not Determined. While a minimum requirement has not been determined (for the three omega-3 fatty acids in the Profiles), sufficient amounts are necessary to meet the maximum ratio."

The footnote implies that at least some of each fatty acid is necessary in the diet in order to calculate and meet the maximum ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids. In actuality, the presence of only one of the three omega-3 fatty acids (EPA, DHA or alpha-linolenic acid) is needed in the diet to meet the maximum omega-6 to omega-3 ratio.

Accordingly, an e-vote was held between April 29 and May 15, 2013, in order to revise the footnotes. Charlotte Conway (FDA-CVM) moved to amend the footnotes for 'ND' in the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles based on Dry Matter (footnote 'd') and Based on Calorie Content (footnote 'c') to read: **ND – Not determined. While a minimum requirement has not been determined, sufficient amounts of omega-3 fatty acids are necessary to meet the maximum omega-6:omega-3 fatty acid ratio.**

Johanna Phillips (ID) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried by e-vote, with seven members in favor and none opposed.

## **Addendum #2**

The final draft minutes from the 2013 AAFCO Midyear Meeting were emailed to the Pet Food Committee members and advisors on May 16, 2013. An e-vote was held between May 16 and May 30, 2013 in order to approve the minutes from the January 2013 Midyear meeting. Johanna Phillips (ID) moved to approve the minutes. Erin Bubb (PA) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by e-vote, with eight members in favor and none opposed.