

Pet Food Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
2:15–3:00 pm EST
2020 AAFCO Annual Meeting
Virtual Meeting, Day 1

Committee Participants:

Members Present:

Austin Therrell, Bill Burkholder, Caitlin Price, George Ferguson, James Embry, Jennifer Gornert, Jo Lynn Otero, Katie Simpson
Kristen Green, Liz Beckman, Stan Cook, Tiffany Leschishin, Charlotte Conway

Advisors Present:

Angele Thompson, Bill Bookout, Dave Dzanis, David Fairfield, David Meeker, James Emerson, Jean Hofve, Julia Fidezno, Louise Calderwood, Pat Tovey,

Others Present:

Cara Tharp, Richard Ten Eyck, Sue Hays, Adam Goldfine, Emily Maddox, Matt McNevin, Sarah Nguyen, Stephanie Wilson

Absent:

Introductions:

Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM PST. Due to the limited time for the meeting, roll call was not announced done. A quorum for the meeting was established (10 of 15).

Working Group Reports:

1. Human Grade Guidelines Update

- a. Caitlin Price updated that the 'Human Grade' feed term was voted on and will be forwarded to IDC. The workgroup received excellent feedback on the guidelines and is working on addressing changes and language issues. Final edits will be shared with PFC @ end of August. Also updated that "federal human food law..." should be "federal human food laws..." Liz Beckman will forward this edit to IDC so they have the most current version. Caitlin also addressed a Slido question about the mock audit and answered "Yes, there was a mock audit (2/2020) prior to pandemic. The workgroup has met to discuss findings, but we are focusing energies on guidelines that will be published in OP and the PVP that AMS is working on will be addressed once guidelines are completed.

2. Therapeutic Claims Guidelines Update

- a. Austin Therrell discussed the Therapeutic Claims Guidelines the workgroup produced. The document has been in the Feedbin for comment since 1/20/20.

- Austin made formal motion: I would recommend to the board of directors and association members: To publish the following guidelines for making therapeutic diet claims in the AAFCO OP following the guidelines for “human grade” claims on page 155 of the 2020 OP.
- Kristen Green seconds motion. Motion passes.
- Discussion:
Louise Calderwood – Thanked the committee and workgroup for attentiveness to detail.
- Angel Thompson proposes Austin and Lizette decide on reconvene time. Austin agrees to leave workgroup open in order to potentially revisit with any comments made. Lizette will address at midyear meeting in 6 months.

3. PFLM – Update

- a. Richard Ten Eyck: PFLM workgroup report from 5/13/20 was shared. The workgroup is working on PF5 in the ingredient section. PFLM workgroup held a webinar in February/March and took comments. The group met in early May and made changes (highlighted in red). The workgroup has a number of recommendations for PFC and is asking PFC to accept the report but not take action on the 5 recommendations until PFC meets again.
 - Charlotte Conway: I move to accept the workgroup report dated 5/13/20. The committee should hold the recommendations and discussions until the October meeting for further action.
 - Bill Burkholder - seconds motion.
Q: Kristen Green - Was there broad consensus from the group on the changes?
Richard Ten Eyck: Yes, consensus from workgroup. and agreed that it was ready for PFC.
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote to accept motion. Discussion: None. Liz Beckman calls for a vote. Motion passes.
- b. Jo Lynn Otero - The last 3 supplements the work group came up with were treat, snack, and food. The new graphics were discussed and added and sent to workgroup. No comments from the work group have been made so the next step is to get draft model regulations to PFC for comments.
 - Bill Bookout - qualifying it as food supplement makes it clear that the product is intended for nutritional benefits unlike a dosage form product. Just in case anyone has any questions on 'Why the additional qualifier'.
 - Angele - Working group is done with tertiary draft so ready to go to PFC or the rest of the workgroups. There is a need for folks to look at it a little more broadly.
 - Jo Lynn Otero – The plan going forward to to proceed with how the Ingredients work group submitted their recommendations to PFC and sent out to all of AAFCO for comments.
- c. Stan Cook - There were 5 different choices on how to present the nutrients. It was narrowed down to 2, there has been lots of discussion no total agreement. The workgroup will be meeting next week, hopefully, to discuss and make a final decision. Main difference is how the Carbohydrates are shown in the facts box. Will be getting it out to broader audiences after.
 - Q: Slido - Lindsay Meyers: Are the "Amount per cup" column numbers intended to be max or min values as well?
A: Dave Dzanis - Direct conversion, so we intended min/max.

- d. Liz Beckman - Plan is - once workgroups submit recommendations to PFC. PFC will meet, once accepted PFC will open it up to all of AAFCO for questions and comments for 30 days. We want questions and comments prior to a web meeting so that workgroups can review questions/comments and be able to work with PFC to plan what happens next. We'd like to have acceptance of final recommendations by October.
4. Fatty Acids and Arachidonic acid (ARA) – Are they essential or not essential per AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles? Panel Discussion, no action from PFC.
- a. Kristin Green – There's some confusion as to how states are handling this guarantee. Kristin wanted to bring this in front of the PFC because she is seeing dog food labels with ARA on the label as part of a ration and not a min value. IS ARA essential as it is in the nutrient profiles?
 - Bill Burkholder - Is ARA essential for dogs. No, it is not. It is not required in any amount. It is not listed as an individual guarantee in the profiles. You can use ARA content as part of the ratio of omega 6 to omega 3s but that doesn't make it a requirement. It does need an asterisk because it is not a required nutrient. You don't have to have it there in any amount, there are other nutrients that could meet the ratio without inclusion of ARA.