

**MINUTES
AAFCO PET FOOD COMMITTEE
AAFCO 2009 MIDYEAR MEETING**

Tucson, Arizona

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Roger Hoestenbach (TX) called the meeting to order at 8:07 am. He announced that he would be filling in for Chair Dave Syverson who was unable to attend this meeting. The following committee members and industry advisors were present:

Committee Members

Dr. William Burkholder (FDA-CVM)
Tony Claxton (MO)
Elizabeth Higgins (NM)
Roger Hoestenbach (TX)
Eric Nelson (FDA-CVM)
Dr. Rod Noel (IN)

Industry Advisors

Jan Campbell (NGFA)
Nancy Cook (PFI)
Dr. David Dzanis (ACVN, APPMA)
Jarrod Kersey (AFIA)
Dr. Angele Thompson (PFI)
Jason Vickers (AFIA)

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roger Hoestenbach announced that effective immediately, Dave Syverson has resigned as Chair of the Pet Food Committee. The AAFCO Board will make a decision on Friday regarding a replacement. Dave Syverson may still be involved in some aspects of the Pet Food Committee. Other Pet Food Committee members who could not attend the meeting were Teresa Crenshaw (DE), Lynn Sheridan (WA) and Dr. Cathie Marshall (FDA-CVM).

SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION

Roger Hoestenbach and the Pet Food Committee expressed their thanks to Dave Syverson for his years of service as chair of this committee.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA:

Dr. Dave Dzanis requested to add comments regarding pet food regulations. There were no other additions or changes to the agenda.

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM 2008 ANNUAL MEETING IN NASHVILLE

There were minor grammatical corrections made to the minutes. Dr. Rod Noel made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, and Eric Nelson seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion.

5. **REPORT OF THE SMALL PET FOOD/TREAT MANUFACTURERS WORKING GROUP** – Lynn Sheridan

Lynn Sheridan was unable to attend this meeting and did not provide a report. The working group has not met since the 2008 annual meeting. A report will be given at the 2009 annual meeting.

6. **NUTRIENT PROFILES AND FEEDING PROTOCOLS EXPERT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP** – Dr. Bill Burkholder

There are no documents for the committee to review at this meeting. The Nutrient Profiles and Feeding Protocol Working Groups are actively working. The Feeding Protocol Working Group is 80-90% done with their revisions and recommendations. The Cat Food Nutrient Profiles Working Group is behind the Dog Food Nutrient Profiles Working Group. These groups are taking a meticulous look at what is in place, what might need to be changed and whether or not a specific change is needed to nutrient levels or methods. Dr. Burkholder said that good progress is being made. The scheduling and contact problems have been worked out. Dr. Burkholder is not sure if documents will be available at the annual meeting.

7. **2007 FDAAA UPDATE** – Dr. Bill Burkholder

This work is ongoing. The regulations establishing updated standards for the labeling of pet food that include nutritional and ingredient information are now in the review stage with the legal department at FDA. There is work ongoing on a daily basis. Dr. Burkholder did not know when the Federal Register notice would be out but to watch for it. Dr. Neal Battaler stated that he did not have any new information to report.

8. **RAW MILK WORKING GROUP** – Liz Higgins

Liz Higgins reported that the work group completed their charge at the 2008 annual meeting, and the Pet Food Committee moved that the raw milk regulations be sent to the Model Bill Committee for consideration.

9. **PROPOSED CALORIE STATEMENT PF10c WEIGHT RELATED TERMS** – Roger Hoestenbach

Roger Hoestenbach reported that the working group has met twice since the annual meeting – once by conference call and a second time prior to this committee meeting. The final reports will be available by this spring or early summer for consideration by the full Pet Food Committee at the annual meeting in August.

10. **APPLICATION FOR THE FEED TERM NATURAL WHERE IRRADIATION HAS BEEN USED IN PROCESSING** – Rod Noel, Feed Term Investigator

Dr. Rod Noel stated that he requested an opinion from the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) on this issue. He stated that he received CVM's comments and will be evaluating what changes to make to "Natural" as a feed term. If changes are needed, this term will go to the Ingredient Definitions Committee and then to the Board. Nancy Cook asked if the letter could be shared with the committee. Dr. Burkholder stated it was Rod Noel's letter, and it would be his decision to share the letter. Rod Noel agreed that the letter would be shared and emailed to the committee.

11. **ESTABLISHING THE ORDER OF GUARANTEES FOR SPECIALTY PET FOOD PRODUCTS PF4(a)(3)**– Liz Higgins

Liz Higgins requested this issue be brought before the Pet Food Committee in response to concerns from industry and other control officials regarding the order of guarantees for specialty pet food. Dave Syverson sent an email request to Dr. Dave Dzanis and Dr. Angele Thompson regarding this issue. Dr. Thompson provided a copy of the proposed language for Regulation PF4(a)(3) and (4) as it appeared in the 2003 and 2006 AAFCO Official Publications. Dr. Thompson and Dr. Dzanis reviewed the history of the language and explained that when the min/max proposal for pet foods for Regulation PF4(a)(3) was dropped, the verbiage regarding the order of guarantees for specialty pet food was also dropped.

Roger Hoestenbach asked Eric Nelson if this verbiage could be added and sent to the Model Bill Committee since the language had already been approved through the Pet Food Committee. He thought that it should be an easy matter to rectify.

Dr. Dzanis stated that this is a sound approach; however, his concern is that in the past few years, APPMA has many specialty pet food members who have changed their guarantees on specialty pet food labels to match the model bill regulations since this language was dropped from the pet food regulations. He stated that these companies would have to go through another label change to correct the order of guarantees for specialty pet foods and should be given a grace period to allow time to get their labels changed. The Pet Food Committee will alert the Model Bill Committee that this is being considered. The impacted industry stakeholders can be addressed, and feedback will be brought to the annual meeting. This will be added as an agenda item to the annual meeting. There were no objections.

The following language is proposed for Regulation **PF 4(a)(4)**:

A specialty pet food label shall list other required or voluntary guarantees in the same order and units of the nutrients in an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile for the specific species; however, if no species-specific AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile is available, the order and units shall follow the same order and units of nutrients in the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profile. Guarantees for substances not listed in an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile for the specific species of animal shall immediately follow the listing of recognized nutrients and shall be accompanied by an asterisk referring to the disclaimer "not recognized as an essential nutrient by the _____(Blank is to be completed by listing the specific AAFCO recognized nutrient profile.)" This disclaimer shall appear immediately after the last such guarantee in the same size type as the guarantees. No such disclaimer shall be required unless an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile is available for the specific species of specialty pet.

12. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Dr. Dave Dzanis

Dr. Dave Dzanis stated that an editorial change is needed in Regulation PF10 Descriptive Terms. He stated that in Regulation PF10(b), section (3) “Lean”, should be renumbered as (1) “Lean”, and section (4) “Less” or “Reduced Fat” should be renumbered as (2) “Less” or “Reduced Fat”. The committee agreed that this was an editorial change that should be corrected in the next printing of the Official Publication.

Tony Claxton moved that the meeting be adjourned, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Rod Noel. The committee approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 am.

Minutes approved and respectfully submitted on April 29, 2009

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