

**MINUTES
AAFCO PET FOOD COMMITTEE
AAFCO 2012 MIDYEAR MEETING
RENO, NV**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Tahoe Room

1. Introduction of Pet Food Committee Members and Advisors

Chair Elizabeth (Liz) Higgins (NM) called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following Pet Food Committee (PFC) members and advisors were introduced:

Committee Members

Liz Higgins (NM) Chair
Jan Jarman (MN) Vice-Chair
Nate Bartz (WI)
Erin Bubb (PA)
Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM)
Donna Dicesare (NY)
Roger Hoestenbach (TX)
Eric Nelson (FDA-CVM)

Industry Advisors

Jan Campbell (NGFA)
Nancy Cook (PFI)
Dr. David Dzanis (ACVN, APPA)
Dr. Angele Thompson (PFI)
Leah Wilkinson (AFIA)
Jason Vickers (AFIA)

Committee members present by conference call were Lynn Sheridan (WA), Teresa Crenshaw (DE), and Johanna Phillips (ID).

A total of 8 control officials, 6 industry association representatives, and 85 guests signed the attendance roster.

2. Announcements

Chair Liz Higgins (NM) welcomed Johanna Phillips with the Idaho Department of Agriculture and Charlotte Conway with FDA-CVM as the newest PFC members.

Liz Higgins (NM) stated that everyone on the committee should review the committee procedures and AAFCO bylaws to understand committee protocol and their responsibilities as committee members and advisors. She also reminded members about timelines for assignments and comment periods.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

Eric Nelson (FDA-CVM) requested that the PFC members, advisors, and guests preview the video entitled "*Ensuring Pet Food Safety*". Roger Hoestenbach motioned to accept the addition to the agenda. Donna Dicesare seconded the motion. The PFC approved the motion.

4. Approval of Minutes from 2011 Annual Meeting in Austin, TX

There were several editorial corrections to the minutes from Austin, Texas. In addition, the minutes did not reflect that Dr. David Dzanis (APPA) was a member of the Working Group on tartar control claims.

Jan Jarman (MN) motioned to accept the corrected minutes. Roger Hoestenbach (TX) seconded the motion. The PFC approved the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes as corrected.

5. Preview of FDA CVM Video entitled “Ensuring Pet Food Safety” – Eric Nelson, FDA/CVM

Eric Nelson (FDA/CVM) presented a draft video entitled “*Ensuring Pet Food Safety*” which was developed as part of FDA’s Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS) mandates. The video discussed pet food labeling to address consumer issues. Eric Nelson requested that comments be emailed to him at eric.nelson@fda.hhs.gov. He stated that consideration will be given to all comments. When finalized, the video will be available on the FDA website and YouTube.

6. Reports from the AAFCO PFC Working Groups

A. Small Manufacturers Working Group/AAFCO Pet Food Website - Lynn Sheridan, WA State Dept. of Agriculture & Erin Bubb, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Erin Bubb (PA) reported on the Business of Pet Food website which went live in August 2011. Since the website was launched, there has been a noticeable decrease in phone calls and emails from pet food manufacturers and consumers to both AAFCO and state feed control officials. The website will always be a work in progress. Erin requested that any comments about needed improvements regarding the website be emailed to her at ebubb@pa.gov.

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. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM) indicated that the comments to the Expert Committee were compiled, but the review was not completed. Dr. Burkholder reported that February 24, 2012 was the deadline for the Expert Committee to review and respond with comments and considerations. He stated that the PFC could expect one to three numbers in the Nutrient Profiles to change. The response document will be approximately 20 pages single-spaced without references. It is hopeful that the response document, revised Nutrient Profiles, and revised Feeding Protocols, will be forwarded to the PFC by the middle of March 2012.

Chair Liz Higgins (NM) thanked Dr. Burkholder and the Expert Committee for their dedicated efforts, and she stated she would forward these documents to the PFC for review and comment as soon as she received them.

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

Jan Jarman (MN) reported that work is ongoing. The recommendations of the Working Group will be provided to the Chair by March 1, 2012. When received, the Chair will send the report to the full PFC so there would be sufficient time to review the report and prepare comments for the annual meeting.

D. Working Group for Weight Related Terms and Calories – Roger Hoestenbach, TX Feed & Fertilizer Control Service.

Please refer to Agenda Item 7 for the Working Group Report and Committee discussion.

7. Review the Proposed Language for AAFCO Model Regulation PF10 and Calorie Affidavit – Roger Hoestenbach, TX Feed and Fertilizer Control Service

Roger Hoestenbach (TX) provided a report of the Working Group's discussions. He explained that the revised AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 was passed by the PFC and forwarded to the AAFCO Board of Directors (BOD) in June 2011 without AAFCO Model Regulation PF10. The BOD decided to hold proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 until they received the proposed revisions to AAFCO Model Regulation PF10. The BOD wanted both model regulations to be considered simultaneously.

Roger reported that the Working Group recommended that the proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF10 (c) be withdrawn. Roger explained that the Working Group agreed that proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF10(c) was not needed if the proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 was approved. Chair Liz Higgins (NM) gave a brief summary of the proposed changes to AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 for the benefit of the attendees.

Nancy Cook (PFI) requested that the PFC send a recommendation to the BOD to consider holding AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 until the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act (FDAAA) was made public. She said the proposed changes to AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 may be a potential conflict with FDAAA. Nancy stated that industry objects to multiple label revisions. Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM) reminded the PFC of the clearance process for publishing FDAAA in the Federal Register. He estimated that that process could take up to a year or longer. Nancy reiterated industry's concerns about AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 moving forward before FDAAA was published. Dr. David Dzanis (ACVN) stated the American College of Veterinary Nutrition submitted the proposal to modify AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 in 2005, and it is time to move this proposal forward. Dr. Dzanis stated that changes in regulations are always in flux, and there is no reason to further delay proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF9.

Jan Jarman (MN) suggested that the PFC include a statement with the recommendation that the BOD consider the ramifications of approving proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF9 before FDAAA was published. Dr. Jean Hofve (Only Natural Pet) stated that AAFCO has a consumer protection function, and she said that consumers and veterinarians want calorie content information on pet food labels.

Liz Higgins (NM) requested the PFC to review the revisions to the calorie affidavit separately from proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF10. Roger Hoestenbach stated that revisions to the calorie affidavit were editorial in nature. The Working Group recommended that “name of company” be changed to “company name”, and the words “scientifically accurate” be struck since the calculations are detailed in AAFCO Model Regulation PF9(a)(3)A.

Jan Jarman (MN) motioned that the PFC accept the changes to the Affidavit of Dog or Cat Food Calorie Content. Roger Hoestenbach (TX) seconded the motion. The PFC approved the motion. The revised calorie affidavit will be sent to the BOD for consideration.

Roger Hoestenbach (TX) stated that the Working Group recommended that the proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF10(c) be withdrawn. Roger Hoestenbach (TX) motioned to accept the Working Group’s recommendation to strike proposed AAFCO Model Regulation PF10(c). Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM) seconded the motion. The PFC approved the motion.

8. Disclaimer Statement for the AAFCO Website Concerning Use of AAFCO’s Name (i.e., “AAFCO Approved”) - Liz Higgins, NM Dept. of Agriculture

Liz Higgins (NM) explained that comments were received from the PFC members and advisors for revisions to the proposed disclaimer statement introduced at the 2011 Annual Meeting. The following disclaimer statement was discussed and reviewed by the PFC members and advisors:

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) develops Model Bills and Regulations which states are encouraged to adopt to achieve uniformity in the regulation of commercial animal feeds (which include pet foods and specialty pet foods). AAFCO does not approve, certify or enforce regulation of commercial animal feeds in any way. It is therefore considered false and misleading for a commercial animal feed label or labeling to include statements, whether explicit or implied, that the commercial animal feed is “AAFCO Approved”, “AAFCO Certified”, “AAFCO Tested” or any such statement of similar meaning, unless adequately qualified, such as in nutritional adequacy statements on pet food and specialty pet food labels.

Roger Hoestenbach (TX) moved to accept the revised disclaimer statement. The motion was seconded by Lynn Sheridan (WA). The PFC approved the motion. The disclaimer statement will be forwarded to the AAFCO Board of Directors for their consideration.

9. AAFCO Guidelines for Tartar Control Claims. *Is there a Conflict with FDA Policy?* – Nate Bartz, Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture

Nate Bartz (WI) reported that he compiled the information from the different links submitted by Dr. Colin Harvey of the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) to determine if there is a conflict between the AAFCO guideline and FDA policy regarding tartar control claims. Nate will forward this information to the members of the Working Group: Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM), Eric Nelson (FDA-CVM), Donna Dicesare (NY), Dr. David Dzanis (APPA), and Dr. Tiffany Bierer (PFI). The Working Group will submit a report at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

10. Adjourn Pet Food Committee Meeting

Chair Liz Higgins (NM) stated that agenda items for the 2012 Annual Meeting must be submitted to her by June 1, 2012 for submission to the AAFCO Board by June 15, 2012. A reminder to submit agenda items will be emailed to the PFC members and advisors.

Dr. Bill Burkholder (FDA-CVM) moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Nate Bartz (WI). The PFC approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

LH/
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