

Pet Food Committee Meeting Minutes

AAFCO Annual Meeting

Tuesday August 2, 2023

1:15 PM – 3:15 PM EDT

Committee Recommendations: None

Board Recommendations: None

Committee Participants:

- **Members Present:** Kelsi Brown (MN), Julie Campbell (MO), Charlotte Conway (FDA), Karen Donnelly (FDA), James Embry (TX), George Ferguson (NC), Kristen Green (KY), Kristen Hamilton (ID), Justin Hill (NC), Holly Jewell (SC), Tiffany Leschishin (MN), Jo Lynn Otero (NM), Barbara-Jean Schleicher (KS), Katie Simpson (IN), Baily Whiten (GA), Stan Cook (LM), Liz Beckman (WA)
- **Advisors Present:** Cathy Alinovi, Bill Bookout, Dave Dzanis, Louis Calderwood, Pam Kaufman, Jennifer Gornert, Chris Nash, Charles Starke, Angele Thompson, Pat Tovey

Committee Report:

Meeting called to order at 1:17 PM EDT. A quorum for the meeting was established (17 of 18).

Copper Claim

Liz gave the update on the copper report with recommendation from the expert panel for low copper claim in PF10. Discussion started with Renee Streeter with ACVIM indicated that this is a good starting place for low copper. However, they are concerned that “low” may be confused with some of the veterinary therapeutic diets. Suggested that maybe can considered “controlled” or “moderated” in the claims. Dave Dzanis agreed with her and added additional comments suggesting an amendment to the draft regulation. He also clarified to Katie Simpsons’ concern indicating that this is not going to be below minimum requirements. Kristen made a comment that there is some precedence with low like “low carbohydrate” claim. Dr. Marcie Campion representing the Pet Food Institute Nutrition Sub-Committee commented that this topic has been discussed within the group and they pulled together their panel to review formulation nutrient databases to see where the copper levels were and realized there was a need and challenges to determine mineral tolerances. They felt these levels were arbitrary derived and lacking in scientific merit. PFI supports the copper expert panel findings and the AAFCO conclusion, considering the available publications data is lacking showing dietary copper levels are negatively affecting healthy dogs and cats. Susan Thixton commented that consumers want the option of a low copper food for their pets. Members of AFIA also expressed their concern for the development of a regulation and the lack of science data. Further discussion led to a motion from Kristen Green.

Motion: To form a workgroup to consider the recommendation and recommended language of the expert panel for a low copper claim in PF10. Furthermore, the workgroup is charged to report its recommendation of the same to PFC at or before the 2024 Mid-Year meeting.

Seconded by George. Motion passed. Workgroup lead is Karen Donnelly.

Human Grade/USDA Training

Holly gave a Human grade update which included some of the challenges for the PVP program which included needed documentation and unknown associated fees. Recommendation was for the Human Grade workgroup to reconvene and develop guidance for industry in navigating the Human Grade claim process and will report back to the PFC in January.

Labeling Definition Joint Work Group

Liz gave update on the Labeling Definition with a charge from the board to have a joint workgroup with Feed Labeling Committee to have 2 industry advisors and 2 regulators from PFC which are Bill Bookout, Pat Tovey, Kristen Green, and Jo Lynn Otero.

Training and Outreach Sub-Committee Update

Holly gave an update on the PFC Training & Outreach workgroups.

Wrap-up and Thank you

Liz went over the 50-state survey and results. Wrapped up with a Big Thank You to everyone involved with PFLM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM EDT