

July 28, 2025

Portland, Oregon

Meeting Notes

- Meeting was opened with introductions and small flock interests
- Attendees
 - o Emily Martin, Kurt Dobson, Brandon Doss, Jarra Jagne, Erfan Chowdhury, Veronica Nguyen, Nobuko Wakamatsu, Blayne Moziseh, Hailey Quercia, Emma Castillo, Valerie Marcano, Dustin Burch, Jess Walters, Victoria Fields, Julie Helm
 - o Chair Brigetta Allen Hughes
 - o Notes taken by Veronica Nguyen
- Textbook resources were shared around the room: Gamebird Medicine and Management Morishita/Porter, Poultry in General Practice (NAVC), Allen Hughes; Backyard Poultry Medicine and Surgery, Greenacre/Morishita
- Past and Current Topics
 - o Request for a list of small flock interest group participants to support our activities and outreach beyond AAAP
 - Form submitted Jarra Jagne will be reviewed and made available to members to complete with small flock related publications, presentations, development of resources for veterinarians and owners
 - This list will be compiled by the chair and submitted to AAAP board of directors
 - Available on website for access by AAAP members?
 - o Discussed Small Flock Resource on AAAP – There is not a public facing section on small flocks or for small flock veterinarians on the AAAP webpage at this time.
 - Topics of discussion:
 - Consideration to recommend replacement of this section to AAAP site. Source identification and updating links; allowing for veterinarian access and not owners.
 - Would practicing veterinarians use AAAP as a resource for questions?
 - Potential content and resources were discussed
 - o AVMA website
 - o Vetahead
 - o Vetlexicon
 - o Poultry DVM (UK based)
 - o Veterinary Information Network (VIN)
 - Blayne Mozisek presented information on new resources he is developing (including The Poultry Doc Facebook page), and his interests in small flock issues
 - After discussion – it was decided to not make a recommendation at this time on a AAAP small flock resource page. Topic was tabled but may be reviewed at any time.
- New topics
 - o AVMA approval of poultry track for 7 hour track and possibly additional poultry presentations
 - Collaborative efforts or inclusion of avian specialists could be helpful
 - Topics
 - Parasites (ecto and endo) – including identification by fecal float visually and the potential for use of automated or semi-automated parasite detection systems. Fecal scoring techniques. New treatment options. Dust bathing benefits (what, when, how).
 - Applied Husbandry (space requirements, temperature, ventilation, litter) and Nutrition – history, assessment, and common mistakes

- Regulations – reportable disease, identifying resources for area ordinances and laws, health certificates, judicious use of medications with ELDU prescriptions, and identifying prohibited medications and withdrawal times using FARAD website
 - Diagnostic lab reports – case studies to interpret and how to move forward with flock recommendations
 - Marek's disease
 - HPAI – panelist from AAAP H5 symposium
 - Common clinical presentations in the individual bird, assessment, and making flock recommendations.
 - Small flock production medicine – between the pet and commercial bird. How to work with small production flocks, parameters for success, dealing with disease issues
 - Poultry welfare in the small flock – updates
 - Species other than chickens – this may be too broad of a topic and may be tabled for a future year.
- New topics discussed
- NPIP – Ratite sampling/handling – we did not identify a person with recent experience in this area. Request will be made to group. This topic was discussed at a recent NPIP meeting.
 - Marek's vaccinations – type and concerns from owners
 - Our group supports the recommendations of the viral tumor committee regarding Marek's vaccination for chicks in ovo or day of age. Type of vaccine used may vary with flock history and potential exposure.
 - Formulate a statement/resources/report by Identifying research on breed predilection, vaccination longevity (one time only for long lived chickens), alternative treatments that owners discuss, and vaccination at a later age. Request for participants will be made to the group.
 - Case presentations - weird and wonderful cases:
 - Handling a case involving non-approved vaccine production
 - Feather loss and bald birds – nutritional evaluation (grains/green proteins), recommendation of switching to pelleted diet. Improvement noted.
 - Chronic scaly leg mites causing squamous cell carcinoma in chickens
 - Case of respiratory pathogen positives – detected MG/ MS/ ILT positives during 40-day quarantine/testing. Discussed flock symptoms/treatment and how to maintain as closed flock
 - Khaki ducks – affected by rigid paralysis with slow recovery. Diagnosis not determined. Heat stroke was initially thought to be a contributing factor. However, tetanus, toxins (including mushrooms), and transient paralysis were mentioned. Histopathology was not available.
 - Lists of veterinarians in practice that see poultry patients/flocks
 - Currently a list is present on Poultry DVM and AAV websites. Small number of participants/avian specialty clinics.
 - Compiling and updating lists of practicing veterinarians who see poultry species for our state or area. Available for state labs and extension. This project can be taken on by anyone interested at their state level.
 - Two examples included
 - Lists compiled by requesting sign up with state VMA – relies on signing up and has had variable results
 - Lists compiled by direct contact. Requires dedicated personnel and could be a student project. Also requires review. Every two years was suggested.
 - This project is not a AAAP small flock initiative, but an encouragement to assist in development. The topic may be discussed at later meetings.

Follow ups –

- Publication/presentation form will be posted on small flock page
 - o Purpose - To demonstrate the participation of individuals in small flock topics
 - o List will be compiled and made available to AAAP board and small flock interest group page.
 - o Compiled list will serve as a reference for presenters and topics available by members
 - o Please complete and return to Dr. Hughes via email bridgetta.hughes@agi.alabama.gov
- AVMA Poultry Track –
 - o List of proposed topics will be sent to small flock interest group members for additional input.
 - o Speaker CV's (Containing a short bio to submit and a more comprehensive list of recent presentations/involvement with small flock topics) will be requested from individuals wanting to present on a topic and will be included in the submission to AVMA.
- Request to be made to group regarding
 - o Identify ratite resources and expertise
 - o Identify one to three participants to find resources for Marek's Disease as it applies to small flock veterinarians. Formulate a statement/resources/report by Identifying research on breed predilection, vaccination longevity (one time only for long lived chickens), alternative treatment topics, and vaccine administration at a later age.

VN/BH