

D A N D E R

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Journal of the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association

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In this issue there will be as many reports as possible about the WPA Conference in Sydney. In February there was a two day AVPA seminar in NSW, over 75% of which was dedicated to Coccidiosis. A number of speakers submitted abstracts, and these will give the general idea. I look forward to enjoying the WPA Conference with you all between August 16 to 19th.
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PROGRESS REPORT OF WPA CONGRESS
ORGANISING COMMITTEE JUNE 07, 1993
Registrations
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The time for registrations at the discount rate closed on 15th May. We have received 205 registrations. Our budgeted number is 350 so we are happy to anticipate that it will be achieved.

Scientific Program
There are 121 oral presentations and

140 poster presentations. There were only a few papers offered for some of the themes and so the nature of the program has been changed. Welfare in Poultry Production has been deleted and included with Poultry Productions and Public Health. Diseases of Village Poultry is combined with Recurrent and Emerging Diseases. No papers were offered on Struthioniformes. There is a special session on Bursal Disease in Asia.

Keynote speakers have 30 minutes (25 minutes and 5 minutes for questions). Oral presentations have 15 minutes. In some cases there will be two parallel sessions. This has been arranged to that clashes of interest are minimal.

Posters
The posters will be displayed in the same area as the Trade Display. tea/coffee and lunch will be in the same area also.

Budget
The committee has agreed to offer 50% discount on registration fee to bona fide students - with evidence in the form of a letter from their supervisor.

Formal Activities
A special program of speakers for Formal Occasions has been developed.

Countries represented
Representatives from 23 countries have already registered. Apart from a strong Australian contingent the most representatives are from USA, UK, Thailand, Israel, Germany, Taiwan and New Zealand. We have been assured of a large attendance from China.

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AVPA Scientific Meeting, AVA Auditorium, Artarmon, 11-12 February 1993

Global trends in Control of Coccidiosis in Broiler Chickens

by: Rami Cobb, Cyanamid Australia
Coccidiosis is one of the most economically important diseases affecting the production of broiler chickens. Losses to the poultry industry have been estimated to be over \$750M (US) globally.

Important factors in the control of coccidiosis are hygiene, management, chemotherapy and immunity. Since the 1940s, particular reliance has been on chemotherapy, which has become an essential part of broiler production.

Increasing problems with developing resistance to available compounds led to the adoption of shuttle programmes in the early 1980s. At present the most successful and popular programmes are chemical ionophore shuttles. Frequently used chemical anticoccidials are

nicarbazine, robenidine, halofuginone, letrtek and diclazuril. Popular ionophores include lasalocid, maduramicin, monensin and salinomycin.

Control of coccidiosis by immunisation would provide an ideal method of protecting boilers. For various reasons, currently available vaccine products have not been successfully adopted by producers. Work is continuing to improve

coccidial vaccines by attenuation of precocious strains, irradiation and in ovo passage. Work is underway on subunit vaccines. To date no specific antigen or antigens conferring absolute protection have been identified which confer absolute protection.

Until a practical coccidial vaccine is available which provides complete and uniform protection from an early age without adverse effect, reliance on chemotherapy is likely to continue.

WANG GT: Global trend of Coccidiosis Control in Broiler Chickens 1992
LONG P Gordon Memorial Lecture: Coccidiosis Control: 1983.

Field Experience with Coccidiosis by Peter Gray, Inghams NSW

GENERAL

Lesion scores are recorded in the broiler field monthly. This is converted to an average score of each Eimeria species, and is used as a guide in monitoring trends in field coccidial control. We observe lesions of E acervulina, E mivatt, E maxima and rarely E tenella.

FACTORS IN INCREASED LESION SCORES

- 1) Management factors:
 - i) moving from brooder cleanouts to full shed clean outs coincided with a decrease in lesion scores. This was possibly due to a reduction in oocyst numbers and/or better bird immunity. Note that anticoccidial changes occurred at the same time.
 - ii) Currently summer lesion scores are generally higher, due to warmer temperatures and high litter moisture associated with fogging as well as drug factors.
- 2) Drug factors
 - i) early use of chemical anticoccidials showed excellent control. After 6 months use however there was an increase in lesions, which reduced after a change to ionophor.

Re-introduction of the chemical drug showed some resistance after a 6 month rest.

- ii) Currently there is a general increase in lesion scores to ionophores as well.

Employment sought:

Dr Aleksander Krewinski, came to Australia from the war in Bosnia a few months ago. He has applied for veterinary registration. He was the director of the Poultry Diagnostic Lab in Bosnia. He speaks 5 languages and is now learning English. If you are aware of any employment opportunities, contact him at 47 Nightingale St, Woolgoolga, NSW 2456

Coccidiosis in Broilers in South Australia by: Margaret Sexton

South Australian oocysts enjoy the following environmental conditions:

- 1) Controlled environmental sheds
- 2) Dirt floors
- 3) Every batch cleanout
- 4) Turn arounds of 10 to 20days
- 5) Straw litter/shavings/wood chips
- 6) A choice of real estate
- 1) North of Adelaide: dry and isolated
- ii) Adelaide Hills: wet
- iii) Murray bridge: drier but high concentration of birds and people.

- 7) generally year round perfect conditions for coccidiosis.
- litter friable, good temperatures, moisture perfect
- in winter moisture laden air
- in summer- hot and dry and heavy fogging producing moisture laden air.

History
1) More than 5 years ago Golden Poultry litter was very wet and minimal lesions were seen and a basic ionophore program was used.

- 2) With Ingham feed formulation the litter was drier, and became perfect for oocyst sporulation. There was an increased incidence and level of lesions observed.
- 3) More birds grown on for longer, and DOT was used in the finisher from 32 to 54 days.
- 4) increased levels of ionophores were used.
- 5) Shuttle programmes were started.
- 6) Challenge levels seen at +2 to +3 levels of E maxima, E acervulina and sometimes as early as 15 to 16 days. These were treated with Toltrio and Ampriol.

- 7) Trial: with Clinicox whole of life indicated total control.
- 8) Used Clinicox in starter and grower- good control of growth rate and PCR but heavy lesions seen after withdrawal of Clinicox.
- 9) Moved to Maxitan in starter and grower and Coxistrac in finisher with DOT in withdrawal, and achieved

good control after several batches.
10) now shutting an Avatec/Coxistrac mixture.

CONTROL

Ideally birds should be allowed to develop immunity slowly by allowing leakage. Need to monitor flocks throughout life to determine challenge period and strength. Once levels move to averging +2 lesions insufficient control exists and the program is changed. There is a fine balance between 1) negative effects of the drugs on the birds
ii) effectiveness of drug control
iii) cost effectiveness as it relates to the levels of control observed.

Paul Gilchrist has received a request for expressions of interest in a poultry and pig job in South East Asia, based in Singapore. It is for a two year term. Any one interested should contact Paul in the first instance.

TODAYS RECIPE: its sugar free!

This one is for those of us who don't mind cholesterol but are killed by sugar: The recipe has a seven star rating, which means it is easy and can be made by anyone who eats take aways regularly:

- 4 eggs, 1/4 Suetaddin, 2 cups of milk, 1/2 cup plain flour, 1 cup of coconut, 1 tablespoon vanilla, half a cup of sultanas, dehydrated orange peel to taste.

Beat eggs and Suetaddin, than add all ingredients and mix well. Bake in a greased dish, dusted with nutmeg, for 50-60 minutes at 180 C. Serve hot of cold. If you like a moist pie, then cook till the centre just sets. It tastes better the next day. Skim milk powder with added water can be used in place of the milk.

Coccidiosis in the
Broiler Industry.
by Grant Richards, Marven Poultry

These comments are made from the perspective of a filed veterinarian and give an overview of what I think the "status quo" of coccidiosis is.

From my recent visit to Japan and following my attendance at the AVA seminar there are three facts which indicate Australia needs to do some hard thinking about coccidiosis:

a) Drug companies are not developing new anti-coccidial products, and the investment in anti-coccidial R and D world wide has decreased. This means that in the future we can not rely on new drugs to control coccidiosis.

b) The arrival of vaccines is certainly not on the horizon. This means that the poultry industry will have to survive with what resources it has for 'say, the next ten years.

c) Based on overseas data (which I think is going to be presented at the WPA in Sydney) there is increasing anticoccidial resistance developing. This has been seen in Australia, as indicated by at least two speakers at the AVPA.

The clear message is to find new strategies which make the drug therapies last longer.

What needs to be done?

The majority of Australias broiler systems are based on an all in all out cycle. Litter is removed at the end of each batch and the sheds are washed down. This process must reduce the numbers of oocysts significantly. It seems logical to now re-introduce some oocysts of known susceptibility and attempt to dilute out those remaining in the environment. There are oocysts which have never "seen" an ionophore in Australia now. Theoretically, resistance should take a long time to develop, and if it does, then

changing to an un-used anticoccidial could re-establish the status quo.

A good place to start is therefore a study of the dynamics of oocysts in sheds. Can the whole of life coccidostat program be re-invented? (I think that it could be).

Who is to do this? Where will the money come from? Where can research be done?

My feeling is that the industry will zoom along hoping that some one will come up with a break through in immune protection and save the day. If coccidiosis is causing economic loss, resources will be diverted into strategy development. The limited industry facilities are already busy working on solving new diseases and monitoring the old ones. Coccidiosis is a low priority. Growing Eimeria is also difficult, and the species are only too happy to cross-infect your laboratory cultures.

I know that Australia has the resources to look for a solution to improving the life span of the existing anti-coccidials. To me it seems to be the only hope that exists.

The Victorian Poultry Industry actively supported the formation of the Victorian Meat Authority. This is a Red and White meat industry driven authority which will improve quality and hygiene standards in every plant processing meat for Victoria. This results in better product for the consumer and ensures standards of processing in Victoria are equal or better than other states. The VMA will be run by a board, appointed by the Minister. There will be one poultry industry representative. Applications for the board positions have closed although the industry appointment is not yet known. The VMA is a significant step, will be dynamic and must not become quagmired and quagmired! It gives hope for uniform Australian processing and quality standards.

COCCIDIOSIS - ACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF OBSERVATIONS IS THE KEY by B. R. Philips

Coccidiosis, like many other diseases, is usually only of clinical and commercial significance when many, often disconnected, factors come into play at once. On many occasions though, it is treated differently from other diseases in that recognition of this multifactor origin is ignored in favour of "low levels in the feed" from the product supplier, or "the product can not control these strains" from the producer. While of course there can be times when these are correct, these approaches can act as blinkers to us when we try to determine the reason for the outbreak.

It is important to remember that coccidia have a considerable capacity to multiply, and in the space of a few days can transform themselves from a subclinical level to a major challenge. In preventing coccidiosis outbreaks, we are trying to supply an anticoccidial programme that can maintain acceptable control under a wide variety of circumstances, and where a particular combination of factors may be short lived, but the effects can last for many days or even weeks. There is not a single disease control or treatment method that does not on some occasion appear to be inadequate to the task, but the same regime can still continue to be used and often is, albeit after some modification. Coccidiosis prevention methods are no different, we have to continue to work with the products we have today. In order to do this, it is critical to recognise the multiple factors that cause outbreaks, so we can anticipate when improvement may occur, and develop programmes that can prevent or at least minimise the same problem in the future. Many diseases suddenly arise and disappear before we really find out what is going on, or despite our best efforts, coccidiosis is no different.

It would be beneficial in order to emphasise the multi factorial nature of the problem to briefly review the type of factors that occur, and to concentrate on a couple of these to remind ourselves that the correct interpretation of what we observe is often more important than the observation.

The factor groups are listed in Table 1.

Rod Reece, Registrar of the National Registry of Domestic Animal Pathology (EMAI, PMB 8, Camden, NSW 2570) has produced a review of "Reproductive Diseases of Birds" comprising 65 pages of text, 147 references, one table and 46 figures. The text is available for purchase at \$5 plus \$1 38p. Cheques payable to NRDAP) PLUS there is an option to purchase some or all of the figures as Kodachromes at \$1 each.

This article is an extensive review of reproductive diseases of birds. It commences with a description of the avian reproductive system, its embryology and development, up to and including the hatching of eggs. Information is mainly on the fowl but information is presented on other species. The aetiology pathogenesis, diagnostic features and treatment of physical abnormalities, infectious diseases and common neoplasms are described.

1	IMMUNITY.....DISEASE ALPHA TOXINS NUTRITION
2	PROGRAMMES.....SHUTTLES . PRODUCTS . CHANGE TIMES . CHEMICALS . IONOPHORES LEVELS v CHALLENGE ROTATIONS PERIODS
3	RESISTANCE/SENSITIVITY.....CHEMICALS IONOPHORES
4	MONITORING/DIAGNOSIS.....SYSTEM . COCCYSIS . DESIGN . HERD/FLANCK . FREQUENCY ACTION PLAN
5	FEED LEVELS.....MIXABILITY STABILITY FERDMILL ACCURACY ANALYSIS SAMPLING FEED CHANGES
6	MANAGEMENT.....LITTER . OLD/FRESH . BROODING . MANAGEMENT STOCKING DENSITY VACCINATIONS HUMIDITY/MOISTURE FEED RECYCLING CHICK QUALITY DISEASE HEAT . FEED INTAKE WITHDRAWAL FEED VENTILATION/TEMPERATURE
7	HISTORY.....SHEP FARM PRODUCT COCCI CHALLENGE / SEASON CONCURRENT DISEASES

THE ROLE OF IMMUNITY

After management/environmental factors the role of immunity is probably the biggest single factor that influences what we observe and how we should interpret it. Generally 50% of the flock is immune by 4 weeks of age and the remainder become rapidly immune there after, so that by 6 weeks all chickens are immune. Anything that delays the development of immunity, such as IBD or Mareks, will delay the process leaving many more birds fully susceptible at a particular age giving coccidia an extended period in which to multiply and become uncontrollable.

Irrespective of the monitoring system used, the age and the immune competence of a flock will greatly affect what is observed. In the ideal world lesion scoring at 4 weeks should only see 50% of the birds with lesions, but, if immunity development has been delayed, a higher percentage can show lesions, and the challenge can be considerably higher than normally expected as more birds have coccidia cycling. Immune status or competency of a flock should therefore greatly influence the interpretation of the lesion scores.

Immunity development can also be influenced by the products used. Generally chemical products are more effective in stopping the coccidial cycle and consequently little or poor immunity development occurs. Ionophores on the other hand allow some leakage which in turn allows immunity to coccidiosis to develop in the normal time frame.

PROGRAMMES

With one product only being used the success of the programme is related to that product, but once shuttle programmes are used, there are additional factors that assist coccidia in their quest to multiply. The change from one product to another leads to large quantities of feed being supplied to the chicken with inadequate levels of anticoccidial as the two feeds mix in bins and the feeding system. If coccidia were challenging relatively strongly at a changeover period, a coccidiosis outbreak is quite likely to occur. Such an outbreak is not necessarily a reflection on the performance of either product. If the mode of action of two products in a shuttle programme is very different then this changeover effect will be further enhanced. If a changeover outbreak was a common occurrence it would be necessary to change the timing of the product changes rather than have to change the products.

The use of chemical products will delay immunity development and could increase the pressure on subsequent ionophores. In addition coccidia that have been arrested in their life cycle will continue their cycle when the product is changed. It is very common to observe an increase in lesions about a week after a change in a shuttle programme due to the system itself. This does not mean that chemicals should not be used but this effect should be taken into account when trying to interpret what is occurring.

The time to rotate from one shuttle programme to another should be guided by the products used and past experience with them.

RESISTANCE/SENSITIVITY

Ionophores do not have the classic resistance problem as increasing the level can control most strains. In addition the leaking effect allowed by ionophores is non-specific, i.e. the coccidia strain mix remains the same after cycling as it was when the chicken picked up the oocysts originally. Consequently there is little selection pressure and build up of less sensitive strains when ionophores are used. Lesions should be seen with ionophores as immunity develops to coccidial infections.

Chemical products on the other hand stop all coccidia except resistant strains present on the farm and can suddenly produce a major coccidiosis outbreak due to a high selection pressure. Chemical products generally produce no lesion but when they are observed a severe coccidial outbreak may not be far away.

The interpretation of lesions thus needs to take the nature of the product into account as well as the site of action of the product.

MONITORING

Systems used vary considerably from lesion scores on every house placed to oocyst counts on different farms on the next production cycle. Again the interpretation will vary considerably according to the system used. Every house system will probably have shown a steady increase and, as a broadly based information source is readily available, an accurate picture of the coccidiosis status of the organisation is immediately at hand. Conversely the oocyst count on different farms merely acts as a potential trigger for a more extensive investigation before any action can be taken. Whatever system is used, there needs to be some correlation with performance of the flocks with oocysts/lesion scores, the age of the flock when the measurement was taken and the type of the product (ionophore or chemical).

FEED LEVELS

It is difficult to correlate a specific level below the intended level with a set percentage reduction in coccidiosis control for a variety of reasons. Firstly different strains have differing sensitivities and require different levels for control. The level required will also vary with the species, the level of immunity in the bird when a low feed level occurs, the presence of other diseases and the actual challenge in the house at the time.

It is important to remember that not every beak full of feed normally has the desired level in it due to variability in mixing. As the level falls in a feed, more birds will be exposed to levels that will not control the disease, steadily increasing the chances of a severe clinical outbreak.

It is also important to remember that feed analysis only indicates the level in the sample submitted. A representative sample of feed consumed from feeders 5 - 7 days previously is what really has to be correlated with a particular problem. If shuttle programmes are being used, the time of sampling, in relation to ration changes and deliveries, is of course important in obtaining a representative sample. Obviously incorrect products and very low levels will cause major outbreaks while lower than required levels will increase the chances of outbreaks occurring.

MANAGEMENT

Table 1 lists several contributing factors that can greatly increase the chances of higher challenges and coccidiosis outbreaks. All of these either improve conditions for sporulation, increase stress on birds, offer more hosts for the coccidia or expose a below par chicken to a major disease hazard. Outbreaks frequently occur when one or more of these factors are present as they tip the balance in favour of the coccidia.

HISTORY

Past experience does affect everybody's interpretation of what is observed. It should be so, but a balance does have to be maintained between any other contributing factors and the past experience in order to reach a valid conclusion.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, coccidiosis is like many other diseases. It flares up out of the blue, mostly due to the presence of several contributing factors. The balance may only be shifted in the favour of the coccidia for a short time but it is long enough for it's excellent reproductive capacity to leave a long lasting legacy. All products have had "breaks", like controllers of many other diseases, but they continue to offer acceptable control the next time round. In order to improve our programme recommendations, and anticipate when changes may be necessary, it is important to try to interpret what we see with a view to identifying the factors concerned and explain how the coccidia were given the opportunity to get out of hand. If we investigate a little more thoroughly and with a more open mind while wrestling with the urgent problem of better control, the opportunity to develop more effective long term programmes will present itself.

CURRENT STATUS OF COCCIDIOSIS VACCINES

Stephen Prowse, CSIRO Division of Animal Health, Private Bag No 1, Parkville 3052

Avian coccidiosis has been and remains one of the diseases of major economic importance to the intensive poultry industry. The cost of treatment with anti-coccidial drugs together with production losses, are in the order of US\$300 million annually.

The emergence of drug resistant parasites and a desire to reduce the use of chemicals for treating livestock diseases has resulted in a great interest in controlling coccidiosis by vaccination. Despite the huge effort put into vaccine development there has only been limited success. The reasons for this are related to the sheer complexity of the organism and poor understanding of the immune mechanisms responsible for the destruction of the parasite.

There are three approaches available for the control of coccidiosis by vaccination which are all based upon the observation that chickens which have recovered from exposure to coccidia are immune to any subsequent infection by the parasite.

The first approach involves the administration of live, virulent organisms to young chickens with the aim of inducing protection before the number of parasites builds up in the litter to such an extent where severe disease is seen. There is considerable risk associated with the use of these virulent organisms. Following the administration of the vaccine to chickens, it is very easy for high numbers of parasites to accumulate in the litter. Under optimal conditions for parasite development, this may cause high mortality.

A second type of live vaccine is in use in the U.K. which based upon the use of attenuated parasites which cause less severe disease but are still able to induce protective immunity. These vaccines can be safely administered in the drinking water to young chickens (5-9 days old) without the need for medication. However due to the high cost (10cents/bird) and limitations of delivery it is unlikely that it will be widely used in broiler chickens.

The ultimate aim of research in the area of coccidiosis is the development of a non-infectious vaccine which can be delivered to broiler chickens at a cost comparable to that of anti-coccidial drugs, ie 1-2 cents/bird.

To date, parasite molecules produced by genetic engineering and used to vaccinate chickens, have not been able to induce satisfactory protection which would be suitable for a vaccine.

Future research will be directed towards the identification and delivery of the key antigens in such a manner that they induce an immune response in the intestinal tract. The development of this type of vaccine will require an integrated research program which includes studies of the parasite antigens, mechanisms of immunity and economically feasible methods of vaccine administration.

This sort of program will, in the long term, result in the production of a vaccine which is suitable for mass administration to broiler chickens and will be cost competitive with current anti-coccidial therapy.

Extracts from an exposure draft on Continuing Education (CE) released by the Veterinary Board of Victoria.

1.2 CE is essential to maintain and enhance professional skills and knowledge. The Veterinary Board of Victoria...appointed a sub-committee to examine this issue and establish a suitable mechanism of ensuring that registered veterinarians are meeting their obligations.

5. The objective of CE will be to maintain and enhance the level of knowledge and skills of registered veterinarians to assist them in keeping abreast of the advances in Veterinary Science and the increased public expectations of veterinary professional services.

8.1 Over a period of three years, 60 units of CE will be the minimum requirement, of which at least 15 units will be formal activities. (1 hour lecture= 1 CE unit) ((AVPA seminars will qualify for CE. Ed))

TWO AVPA MEMBERS WHO ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING TO THE SYDNEY CONFERENCE...

Hugh Bray has been getting good news from his post operation check ups. He is feeling well enough to be looking forward to coming to the Sydney Conference. Hugh's wife has also had surgery and is now busy working. No top all this off, Hugh has had some work done on his eye sight, and it is rumored that the improvement will enable him to watch full cricket test coverage on TV.

Rob Cumming is feeling well after a bout of radiation therapy. Rob and his wife Denise are busy doing all the things they have been putting off doing. This includes some of the research Rob has presented only to various Conferences, including AVPA. This means that fellow AVPA members will now quote Cumming, 1993 rather than Cumming (pers comm)!

SEE YOU BOTH IN SYDNEY !

SWOLLEN HEADS IN BROILERS

by Laurie Dowling, DPI OLD

In July, 1992, 27-day-old broiler chickens were presented to Yeerongpilly with markedly swollen heads, fever, eye discharge, abdominal swelling, depression, muscle wasting and leg weakness. Similar cases had been submitted to another government lab in Queensland July to January 1993. The pathological picture was almost identical to that described as Swollen Head Syndrome (SHS) in South Africa in the late seventies. There was massive subcutaneous head oedema associated with a purulent inflammation from which E coli was cultured. The E coli was notably different to normal isolates in its greatly increased resistance to antibiotics. A secondary coliform polysaccharitis was also present in some birds but usually not those with the swollen heads. Apart from a single Salmonella group B4 isolate, no other bacteria or viruses were found. Mycoplasma serology was negative. All birds had a tracheitis from which E coli was cultured. Haematology showed a heterophilia and lymphopaenia. Similar cases in Victoria gave variable serological results to Turkey Rhino Tracheitis Virus, the putative cause of SHS. Overseas neutralisation tests were negative. The Old birds were bled and were negative for TRT and Avian Influenza. Thus the cause of the swollen heads in Old broilers seems to be the result of an E coli infection of unknown pathogenesis and unknown predisposing agent's. Because of the clinical similarity to exotic diseases such as Avian Influenza and SHS, for diagnosis purposes, it would be beneficial to know more about the cause of swollen heads in broilers.

SEE YOU ALL IN
SYDNEY 16-19 AUG

A.V.P.A. STANDING COMMITTEE ON THERAPEUTIC AGENTS

REPORT TO A.V.P.A. A.G.M. - 11.2.93

A. Purpose. The Working Party was established by the Executive on 29.1.91 because "a number of important and controversial issues relating to the use of therapeutic agents in poultry had arisen". At the 1992 AGM, the WP was upgraded to a Standing Committee.

B. Terms of Reference. To handle any matters relating to the use of therapeutic agents which are referred to the AVPA by the AVA, Governments or members. Recommendations, policy statements and responses are to be ratified by the Executive prior to release.

C. Membership. T. Grimes (Convenor), P. Groves, C. Jackson, B. Johnston, P. MacQueen, R. Cobb, J. Alexander.

D. Conduct. S.C. has operated during the year by meeting on 19.6.92 and 30.11.92 and by participation in A.V.A. Therapeutics Advisory Committee, N.S.W. Stock Medicines Consultative Committee and Sulphonamide Task Force. The S.C. will also participate in the newly-formed Veterinary Chemicals Consultative Committee in the National Registration Authority.

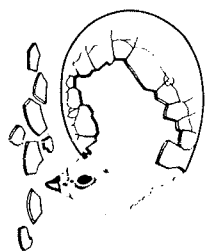
E. Reporting. Written and verbal reports have been given at AVPA meetings and circulated in Dander.

F. Business. Nitrofurans have been banned for use in food-producing animals from July 1993 following similar action in Canada and U.S.A., despite the S.C. participation in a Nitrofurans Task Force which opposed this action by Australian Health Authorities.

Dimetriazole has been retained for food-producing animals as an S4 following considerable input from the S.C.

Sulphonamides and trimethoprim may continue to be permitted for food-producing if submissions made by the Sulphonamides Task Force (with considerable input from R. Cobb) are successful.

Other ongoing activities include updating Code of Practice for use of Antibiotics and Other Drugs, veterinary servicing of the layer industry and input into activities of the National Registration Authority's initiatives on registration, sale and use of medications and vaccines.



Australian Veterinary Poultry Association

AVPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

11 FEBRUARY, 1993

The year has been occupied mainly with preparations for the AVPA Congress. A short term cash flow problem has passed as a result of many members paying 1994 membership subscriptions in advance and as a result of a loan of \$15,000 from DITAC being paid early.

The Association has already been paid back most of the loans made to the Congress. These funds will be held by the AVPA and can be used in case any other cash flow problem occurs. As a surplus accumulates in the Congress fund it will be held in an interest bearing account. An application has been made to the Taxation Department for exemption for such a fund.

Membership has dropped a little as a result of a number of cage and aviary bird practitioners choosing to devote their membership to the Australian Association of Avian veterinarians(AAAV) and a few retirements. However there are only 40 members of 100 on our books who have paid their 1993 subscription. Individual invoices will be issued in future so that there is no more confusion.

We are still suffering from the results of some disorder in the role of Secretary following 1991's numerous changes in the occupants of that office.

Communications with members through Dander have improved during the year as has its layout.

We have established a Standing Committee on Therapeutic Substances headed up by Tom Grimes. They have been active and a report should soon show their progress.

The Exotic Diseases Standing Committee, headed up by Clive Jackson, has also been active in relation to a number of proposed importation matters.

The AVPA has been invited to be represented on the Victorian Poultry Advisory Committee (to the Minister). We supplied three names and Richard Coulter has been appointed to the position.

There will be no more meetings before the Congress and there will be no business session at that time. This means that business will be in the hands of the Executive till February 1994 when our next Annual General Meeting will be due.

TOM GRIMES
CONVENOR

0144J/41

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Grimes', is located at the bottom left of the page.

WELFARE ISSUES

from K Critchley

Magistrate finds against cages in cruelty case

In February, 1993, a Tasmanian poultry farmer was found guilty by a Magistrate of cruelty to hens. Although the conviction related to a number of specific hens, in his finding the Magistrate expressed the opinion that the keeping of hens in cages was a cruel procedure and took it into account in his judgement.

The action had been brought against the farmer by a group of concerned citizens and was the culmination of the efforts of one Tasmanian lady who had been pursuing an anti-cage campaign for a number of years. While a number of the charges were dismissed by the Magistrate, he found the charges of cruelty to be answered.

In support of his finding the Magistrate referred to legal precedents, sections of Genesis where God gives man dominion over the animals and the 19th century reformer, Jeremy Bentham. He considered it was not enough to show cruelty because legislation states "unnecessary suffering", appearing to condone some degree of suffering as being tolerable. The cages produced feather wear and restriction of movement and hence were cruel and the cruelty was constant, continual and without relief. The "unnecessary" was because the only apparent justification for this cruelty was economic.

The last news received is that the case is to be appealed by the farmer concerned.

The NSW Review of Cruelty to Animals Act

A Public Discussion Paper was released in Nov 1992. Of the issues related to birds, a couple are interesting although side issues to the commercial industry. In the proposals are that events

like cock tossing should carry a \$5000 fine, cock fighting a fine of \$20000 &/or 2 years, owning equipment intended for use in cock fighting a \$10000 fine &/or 1 year and participating in falconry a \$10000 fine &/or 1 year.

Issues of importance to the poultry industry are the suggestion that dubbing of poultry should be an offence as there is "no commercial or other justifiable reason" for doing it. Another is that mass destruction of poultry by gassing would need a permit and that it should be included in the Code of Practice.

A response has been made on AVPA's behalf regarding those areas where there will be some impact on the commercial industry.

Australian Federation for the

Welfare of Animals

AVPA has been a member of this organisation for a number of years. It was established to support the continued use of animals in scientific research, monitor the activity of animal rights and animal liberation groups here and overseas and ensure a balance was kept by countering the media activities of such groups in Australia.

Administrative affairs are handled out of the AVA's Adelaide office and Warren Starick, a South Australian poultry farmer and grazer was Acting President for 6 months recently while Alan Blackshaw was overseas. A

publication is produced about 3 times a year which is a collection of clippings from around the world and locally. This is an attempt to keep members up to date with the latest in argument for and against animal use.

No-one from AVPA has ever been directly involved but there is the opportunity to take part as there is a board which seems to usually have the odd vacancy which could possibly be taken up.

With Compliments

Department of Agriculture.

