

# ARIZONA BRANCH NEWSLETTER LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE"

\*\*\*Dated Forms Enclosed\*\*\*

March 1992

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## MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING

The meeting was held at the College of Medicine in Room 5120 on February 28, 1992. President, Karmen Munson called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. She announced that the first item on the agenda was our speaker, Beth Skovan to be followed by the branch business.

Karmen waived the reading of the minutes of the last meeting on 11/8/91. Karmen then gave a brief summary of the branch finance report which stated the branch has \$6000+ in the treasury.

Karmen proposed the branch hold a picnic social which met with the branch's approval. Karmen stated that Grace had checked into available space at Ft Lowell and Reid Park for the first three weeks in May and the branch decided to go with Ft Lowell Park this year. Grace will reserve a ramada and purchase the liquor license for May 2, 1992. The branch will once again provide burgers, hot dogs, soda and beer.

Karmen pointed out that the abstract forms for the 1992 National meeting in Anaheim are available through Grace. These forms must be mailed by March 11th to be considered. The Fourth Annual Fall Symposium abstract forms are also available although a date has not yet been set for this year. Tentatively it is to be late September or early October.

Karmen introduced the board members: Karmen Munson - President, Cheryl Johnson - Vice President, Jane Criswell - Past President, Grace Aranda - Secretary/Treasurer, Vangie Patula and Louise Brooks - Board Members, Susan Sanders - Regional Examining Board, chair, Dan Downing and Gloria Aerni - REB's, Kathy Stollberg - Technician Branch Representative.

Karmen announced the formation of committees: Accommodations committee - Grace Aranda, chair; Speakers/Program committee - Brenda Kulik, chair; Registration Committee - Louise Brooks, chair; Casey Kilcullen Steiner - Awards Committee, chair; Membership Committee - Karmen Munson, chair; and Vendor/Sponsor Committee - Cheryl Johnson, chair.

Grace Aranda asked for volunteers for the Accommodations Committee. Cindy Richner and Shirlye Artwohl volunteered. Karmen mentioned that anyone else who wishes to volunteer for committees should contact the chairpersons of the committee they want to be a part of.

Louise Brooks mentioned that the branch may want to become involved in the Adopt an Animal Program out at the Reid Park Zoo. Some interest was raised and it was decided to place a form in the newsletter regarding this issue.

## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

I enjoyed my year as Arizona AALAS President. I appreciate the member's support as they made my year as president much easier and the time flew by. Good luck to our new president and her officers.

Jane Criswell

## PRESIDENT'S HELLO

It will be fun serving as your new president this year. I hope to have a successful year with of the branch's support. Thanks.

Karmen Munson

\*\*\* REMINDER: BRANCH DUES ARE DUE \*\*\*

The Arizona Branch of AALAS membership dues are now due. Don't miss out on all the valuable information available through AALAS and it's newsletter. Send in your dues today!

REQUEST FOR NEW MEMBERS - 1992

Arizona has had a branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science since July of 1985. For those of you not familiar with this organization, AALAS serves as a clearing house for the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of the care and management of laboratory animals. Membership in the local chapter is only \$5/year.

Please send your check or money order made out to Arizona Branch AALAS, University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721.

OPPORTUNITY FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

As of May of this year, the AALAS Bulletin, now called Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science, will no longer be shipped in bulk to the branches and certification examination fees, which have not been adjusted since the early '70's, will increase. Non-national members participating in this program will be charged an additional \$50 at each level. Although many branch members may work within a Member Institution and therefore, can affiliate with the national organization through their place of employment, others may not have that opportunity. The Arizona Branch has purchased a Branch Membership in National AALAS for \$300 and by paying an additional \$20 any member of the Arizona Branch may become an affiliate of National. By joining as a Member Branch, we can create a low cost vehicle for all branch members to affiliate with the national organization. And as a Member Branch "affiliate", local members not only will be entitled to participate in all national programs and services at the member rate, they also will receive a direct copy of Contemporary Topics. In addition, they can attend the four-day AALAS Annual Meeting in Anaheim at the reduced rate for members. This conference will offer hundreds of educational presentations and state-of-the-art product/service exhibits. Affiliates are not eligible to vote or chair national committees. They do receive Contemporary Topics and special mailings; get discounts on educational material and services; and are listed in the Membership Directory. For more information call Grace at (602) 621-1330.

SPONSORS

If you are interested in placing an ad in the newsletter the following price schedules are in effect:

- \$30 for business card size ad
- \$40 for 1/4 page size
- \$60 for 1/2 page ad
- \$85 for full page ad

Each ad will run four times during the year. In addition, if your organization has any more general announcements and/or articles which would be of interest to our members, please feel free to send them to us for publication. Please send copy to Newsletter Editor: University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEWS

Federal Court Rules that Rats, Mice and Birds Should Be Covered Under Animal Welfare Act

US District Judge Charles R. Richey has told the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

that its decision to exclude rats, mice and birds from coverage under federal animal welfare regulations is arbitrary and capricious and in violation of the law. Richey was persuaded that the Animal Welfare Act gives the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to determine which animals are used for purposes regulated by the ACT, but not to exclude animals that clearly are used for those purposes. Not only did Richey find no authority in the Act for their exclusion, he stated that not providing coverage for rats, mice and birds contravened the statutory mandate of assuring humane treatment of laboratory animals.

USDA had argued that the cost of enforcing the Animal Welfare Act for laboratory rodents and birds would be prohibitive. USDA estimated that extending coverage to these species would double or triple the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service's workload and lead to declined enforcement of the Act for other animals. The court did not agree that significant agency resources would be required to include rats, mice and birds because many provisions for the protection of animals are self-implemented by regulated industries. In the judge's opinion, exclusion of rats, mice and birds sends a message "That the researchers may subject birds, rats and mice to cruel and inhumane conditions, that such conduct is sanctioned by the government and has no legal consequences."

The federal court ruling of January 8 came in response to a 1990 lawsuit against USDA filed by the Humane Society of the U.S. and the Animal Legal Defense Fund after their petition seeking the addition of rats, mice and birds to the regulatory definition of animals was denied. Judge Richey ordered the case remanded to USDA for reconsideration of that petition. The Department is now deciding whether to appeal the decision.

(NABR Update, Vol XIII, No 1, January 10, 1992)

### Researchers Want Tougher Laws to Stop Animal Rights Crime

Recent attempts by animal rights extremists to contaminate Canadian candy bars, Italian milk, and a British soft drink prompted the National Association for Biomedical Research , NABR, to issue a press statement decrying the illegal acts of animal rights extremists and calling for federal protection of animal research facilities. "To deliberately put people at risk to publicize some sort of message is unconscionable," NABR President Frankie L. Trull said in response to the contamination plots. She said that although such incidents had not occurred as yet in the US, researchers here have been subjected to lab break-ins, theft, arson, destruction of property and research records, bomb threats and other harassment by animal activists. "Everyone is entitled to their opinion," Trull continued, "but nobody has the right to jeopardize other people's health, whether by tampering with products or depriving them of the incredible benefits gained through animal research."

In calling for passage of pending legislation making animal rights-inspired crimes against research facilities federal offenses, NABR Chairman Albert F. Barber, PhD at UCLA, emphasized that, "All NABR members support the best possible care for lab animals." He explained that non-animal methods are used when it's possible, "but for many types of research nothing can completely replace studying a whole, living organism."

The Association does monitor press coverage, but in case we miss something, please send us copies of any articles and information on other media mentions you see about this or other animal research topics.

(NABR Update, Vol XIII, No 3, February 10, 1992)

### 102nd Congress Prepares for Second Session - Stenholm Bill Ready to Move

When the second session of the 102nd Congress begins on January 22, the Stenholm bill, HR 2407, which provides federal protection to publicly and privately funded research and farm animal facilities, will be considered by the full House Committee on Agriculture. The

Stenholm proposal was reported out of subcommittee without additional hearings or changes. At this point, NABR doesn't know whether the Committee will choose to hold the hearings or not, nor if changes in the text of the bill are likely. The Agriculture Committee favorably reported the legislation in the 101st Congress. Also in the last Congress, the House Judiciary Committee asked to review the Stenholm bill after the Agriculture Committee approved it. Judiciary could again make this request, although Mr Stenholm has already incorporated revisions to alleviate the Committee's potential concerns. With approval of all committees having jurisdiction, HR 2407 would then proceed to the floor of the House for a vote. Currently, a majority of the House, 244 out of 435 members, is cosponsoring Mr Stenholm's bill.

Legislation to protect research facilities receiving Public Health Service funds has already passed the House as part of the NIH reauthorization measure, HR 2507. Senator Howell Heflin's bill, the Animal Welfare Facility Protection Act, S 544, was approved by the Senate last fall. Ultimately, both chambers must agree on the same proposal to protect research facilities. This could be accomplished either in the House - Senate conference committee or by both bodies approving the same bill.

(NABR Update, Vol XIII, No 1, January 10, 1992)

### Northwest Airlines Resumes Research Animal Shipments

Members will be pleased to learn that Northwest Airlines has decided to resume shipment of live animal for biomedical research. After a review of information, including hundreds of letters from the research community, the company's senior management group made the favorable determination. The corporation also renewed its pledge to humanely care for all the animals it transports. Thanks to all who took the time to communicate with Northwest in response to our request. (CFAAR Arizona Newsletter, Vol 2, No 1)

It is extremely important that we reinforce this positive action taken in the face of anti-research, animal extremist pressure. Please write and thank Northwest for their positive decision.

Letters should go to: Mr John Dasburg, President, Northwest Airlines, Inc., 5101 Northwest Drive, St Paul, MN 55111.

(NABR Update, Vol XIII, No 3, February 10, 1992)

### CERTIFICATION EXAMS

DATES FOR AALAS EXAMINATIONS - Note New Due Dates	
TEST DATES	APPLICATIONS DUE
Last week in January	October 20
Last week in May	February 20
Last week in August	May 20
Week of National & following week	July 20

### AALAS Animal Technician Certification Program

The AALAS Animal Technician Certification Program is an authoritative endorsement of an individual's knowledge

about the care and treatment of laboratory animals. The program certifies three levels of technician competence: Assistant

Laboratory Animal Technician, Laboratory Animal Technician and Laboratory Animal Technologist.

National AALAS is responsible for preparing and distributing examinations. Examinations are administered through a system of volunteer REB members and Special Examiners. The AALAS Animal Technician Certification Program is governed by the laws and regulations of the state of Tennessee.

All three levels of examinations contain 140 multiple-choice questions with a single correct answer. The examinations for each level of certification become harder as one progresses from ALAT to LAT to LATG certification.

Forty questions form the slide portion of the examination. This examination test knowledge and abilities gained from working in a laboratory animal facility. Examinees answer questions about slides that show a variety of laboratory animals, laboratory animal facility equipment, diagnostic equipment, or common laboratory animal techniques. The remaining one hundred (100) questions in the written portion of the examination relate to the six subject areas found in the "Basic Course Outline." The six areas are: administration and management, health and science, husbandry, environmental matters, sanitation and safety, and techniques.

During 1992, certification examinations will be administered during the following four examination periods: January 15 - 31, May 15 - 31, August 15 - 31 and November 1 - 15. The exact date and time of the examination is set by the REB Examining Board Chairman or Special Examiner. Applicants are notified of the exact date and time approximately two weeks prior to the examination. It is the examinee's responsibility to take the examination at the place and time scheduled by the REB Chairman or Special Examiner.

All applications must be sent to the REB Chairman or Special Examiner for approval. Applications sent to the AALAS office without REB review will be returned. The REB Chairman or Special Examiner must receive all applications no later than

the following deadlines:

- January examination - November 1, 1991
- May examination - March 1, 1992
- August examination - June 1, 1992
- November examination - August 1, 1992

Applications may not be reproduced. Additional applications may be obtained from the REB Examining Board Chairman or the AALAS office. Applications must be filled in completely and neatly. An application that is not complete or is not readable will be returned. This could result in a delay of your examination. Send the completed application and certification fee to the Chairman of the Regional Examining Board (REB) or Special Examiner for your area.

#### Certification Fees

The following fees are effective beginning with the May examination.

National AALAS Members		
NonMembers*		
ALAT.....	\$30.....	\$80
LAT.....	\$40.....	\$90
LATG.....	\$60.....	\$110

\* Nonmembers may apply the \$50 nonmember fee toward membership in national AALAS for the remainder of the calendar year.

#### Qualifications for Certifications

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements for both education and experience in a laboratory animal facility found on the following page. This also contains a definition of a laboratory animal facility. Minimum work experience refers to full time employment. Time away from work, including maternity leave, disability leave or long time illness cannot be counted toward work experience. Work experience must be related to the maintenance of health and well being of animals, or handling and treatment of animals, or supervision of individuals directly associated with animals

and their primary enclosures. For example, work experience in the accounting section of a laboratory animal resource is not considered to be related to the maintenance of health and well being of the animals. Work experience in necropsy or surgery section of a laboratory animal resource is considered to be related to the maintenance of the health and well being of animals. College credits refer to semester units.

The application must be signed by the applicant's immediate supervisor to validate the information provided.

#### Clarification of Provisional Certification

To be eligible to apply for provisional certification at the ALAT and LAT level, the applicant must have a degree or diploma from a program in laboratory animal science, veterinary technology, or a life science. Persons currently enrolled in such a program may apply for provisional certification under the following restrictions:

- 1) The applicant must complete the program within 30 days from the end of the examination period.
- 2) The applicant must send proof of graduation (either a transcript which indicates graduation or a photocopy of the diploma) to the AALAS office within 90 days from the end of the examination period.

Provisional certification lasts for three (3) years following the examination date. The examinee must complete the required work experience within this period.

#### Evaluating Prior Experience

Applicants may not use experience as part of a course practicum, internship, or externship for any part of the full-time equivalent (FTE) work experience requirement. Full time employment is calculated at 1950 hours per year. Part time employment will be credited in terms of its full time equivalent.

Applicants must submit proof of employment for each employer listed on the application.

#### Minimum Experience in a Laboratory Animal Facility

Applicants must have the following minimum, full time equivalent (FTE) animal care work experience in a laboratory animal facility.

ALAT = at least 6 months of the 1 year total required, LAT = at least 1 year of the 3 years total required, LATG = at least 2 years of the 6 years total required.

#### Education in Lieu of Experience

Use of the ratio below to determine the number of months of experience that your college level life science credits will earn.

32 semester hours = 2 years experience  
16 semester hours = 1 year experience  
8 semester hours = 6 months experience

A photocopy of the applicant's diploma is required if the degree is offered in lieu of work experience. A photocopy of the applicant's transcript is required if individual courses are offered in lieu of work experience.

#### Notification of Results

Examinees receive a letter containing the pass/fail results of their examination with 60 days after the end of the examination period. Actual grades are not provided, however.

## Certification Qualifications

### Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT)

	Minimum Education	plus	Minimum Work Experience
1.	Grammar school (8th grade) or		1 year in a lab animal facility*
2.	Diploma from a high school vo-tech curriculum in laboratory animal technology or		6 months in a lab animal facility
3.	Diploma from 12 month, post high school program program in laboratory animal science or		6 months in a lab animal facility
4.	High school plus 8 college credits in life science		6 months in a lab animal facility

May apply to take the ALAT certification examination on a provision basis if applicant has:

1.	Diploma from high school vo-tech curriculum certification or	No experience (may apply for full after 6 months work in a lab animal facility)
2.	Diploma from 12 month, post high school certification program in laboratory animal science	No experience (may apply for full after 6 months work in a lab animal facility)

### Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT)

1.	High school or GED or	3 years in a lab animal facility*
2.	Diploma from a high school vo-tech curriculum in lab animal technology or	2.5 years in a lab animal facility*
3.	Diploma from 12 month, post high school program in animal science or	2.5 years in a lab animal facility*
4.	32 college credit hours in lire sciences or	1 year in a lab animal facility
5.	2 year degree in laboratory animal science or veterinary technology from a college or vo-tech institute.	1 year in a lab animal facility

May apply to take the LAT certification examination on a provisional basis if applicant has:\*\*

1.	2 year degree in lab animal science or veterinary certification technology from a college or vo-tech institute after 1 year work in a lab animal facility)	No experience (may apply for full certification)
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### Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG)

1.	High school or GED or	6 years in a lab animal facility*
2.	2 year degree in laboratory animal science or veterinary technology from a college or institute	4 years in a lab animal facility

- 3.           or  
4 year college degree in a life science other than #4   3 years in a lab animal facility
- 4.           or  
4 year college degree in laboratory animal science,   23 year in lab animal facility  
animal science/husbandry, or veterinary science

\*           In these cases, partial credit may be allowed for work experience in animal hospitals or other non-laboratory animal facilities.

\*\*          Provisional requirements at the LAT level can be used to qualify provisionally at the ALAT level.