



Ultrasound Guidelines Council

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September 23, 2015

UGC Board Meeting

Members Present: Mark Henry, Larry Keenan, Vicki Leesburg, Steve Paisley, Becky Hays, J. R. Tait, Kari White, Lauren Hyde

Members on Conference Call: Rethel King

Absent: Dean Pringle, Casey Worrell, Jack Ward

Chair Larry Keenan opened the meeting on Thursday at 4:30 PM C.S.T.

Introductions

Dr. Lauren Hyde and Kari White were introduced and welcomed to the Ultrasound Guidelines Board.

Field Certification

Last year's complications with field certification were explained. VL proposed some new standards to ensure fairness to technicians and labs. New standards include randomizing technician ID numbers over the course of the certification week and enlisting the aid of all 3 labs to do the IQ scoring and tracing. This would then eliminate extra work on the part of the labs when previously they were asked to agree on rejected images.

Image Quality

BH presented a detailed report, examples, and explanation of types of images that are received by the labs from technicians. This presentation was to reiterate the importance of image quality collected and data received from these images.

UGC Policy

RK proposed reconsidering the requirement to make lab technicians who have been certified for over 5-10 years recertify every 2 years.

Discussion concerning how greater oversight could be provided to these lab techs so that an extension in lab certification or absentia for lab certification could be obtained. No resolution or solution was found or proposed at the present time. No motion was made, lab certifications requirements to remain as they currently stand.

RK explained BIA Pro-Plus software to new members. Original image is interpreted chute side, then each image is given to the lab and lab technician can override field measurement. BH expressed that chute side interpretation is not ideal. That was the reason for centralized ultrasound processing. Additional discussion concerning BIA Pro-Plus was moved to new business.

Technician request for hardship consideration – granted 1 year probation and must attend certification to retain certification. MH made a motion, LH second. Board voted – motion passed. This type of request for consideration will continue to be on a case by case basis and is not the standard.

New Equipment

VL has been contacted by various ultrasound vendors. One representing Advanced Veterinary Ultrasound would like to present equipment and do a demonstration for UGC labs, Board members and technicians in 2016.

Labs are currently working with other companies developing new equipment for carcass ultrasound. Information is still forthcoming.

Education Program

Discussion involved moving the hosted webinars to the fall to better engage technicians in between field seasons.

Ideas for Education Program include presentations from breed associations. LH and KW will present for this year's education program in November. Discussion will include genetic evaluation and uses of ultrasound.

Over the past year queries have been made to the Director with regard to development of a Facebook page for easier access for some technicians and as a way to send out and share information in a format that is convenient and used by many. Therefore the development of a Facebook page for the UGC was approved. No motion was made.

Various technicians have expressed the desire for a reunion or gathering of UGC affiliates. This would allow for greater socialization and a chance to get together with Board Members and others to ask questions, learn from each other and catch up on industry changes. Therefore due to the central location of the Beef Improvement Federation Meeting in Manhattan, KS in 2016 a UGC social for all technicians, labs, breed associations, and board members has been discussed to occur along with BIF. Details to follow...

BH made a motion to go to executive session. KW second.

Executive Session

Becky made motion to exit executive session. Kari seconded.

New Business

BIA Pro Plus. Discussion centered on technicians not interpreting their own images in the field. This is the reason for unbiased 3rd party interpretation. American Simmental Association is the only breed association that will accept data interpreted in the field. Further discussion to commence at a later date as needed.

Financial Report

Financial report was not provided due to meeting coinciding with certification and expenses for Director and Labs not yet finalized. Financial report sent out as soon as these itemized expenses are finalized.

Motion to adjourn – made by LH, second by JT. Motion passed.