



International Embryo Transfer Society
Parent Committee on Companion Animals,
Non-Domestic & Endangered Species
(CANDES)

Report to the IETS Board of Governors
1 June 2004

IETS CANDES Homepage

Our scheduled update (March, 2004) of the CANDES homepage was delayed somewhat (posted in May) because it was necessary to reconstruct each page in order to provide links back to the CANDES as well as the IETS homepages (according to the Board's suggestion in January 2004). We also have now posted our position statement on cloning CANDES which the Board approved in December 2003.

The Research and Regulatory Subcommittees both provided additional information for the Resource Manual and Import-Export Regulatory Information for CANDES, respectively. The Technology Subcommittee updated the contact information for suppliers of materials used for assisted reproductive technology (ART) applications in CANDES and have posted a list prioritizing the type of research that this subcommittee finds important for developing more efficient and effective ART procedures in CANDES.

The first draft of the Workbook on Biomaterial Transport and Disease Risks can be accessed as a pdf file under the Health and Safety Subcommittee. This was the outcome of the working meeting held by this Subcommittee on 21 – 23 November 2003 at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. This subcommittee plans to hold another working meeting, tentatively scheduled for March, 2005, to further refine the workbook and to complete a comparative disease risk analysis comparing the potential dangers associated with transporting biomaterials versus live animals. Currently, regulatory officials do not distinguish between live, non-domestic animals and their gametes and in vitro produced embryos in regards to their requirements for transport. In fact, it appears that, somewhat illogically, they may enforce more stringent regulations upon gamete and embryo transport than upon the transport of live animals. By examining the comparative risks (potential and actual) associated with the transport of live animals versus animal products, it is hoped that a more rational basis for regulatory restrictions can be developed.

I hope you all have the opportunity to review our updated homepage and provide us with any comments or suggestions for improvement.

New Officers

The Board approved my request for a few changes to the CANDES Executive Committee which consists of the Chairman, Secretary and Subcommittee Co-Chairmen:

Chairman: Naida Loskutoff (Center for Conservation & Research, USA)
Secretary: Rebecca Spinder (Toronto Zoo, Canada)
Research Subcommittee Co-Chairmen:
 Rebecca Krisher (Purdue U., USA)
 Monique Paris (U. Melbourne, Australia)
Regulatory Subcommittee Co-Chairmen :
 Elizabeth Crichton (Center for Conservation & Research, USA)
 Justine O'Brien (U. Sydney, Australia)
Health & Safety Subcommittee Co-Chairmen:
 William Holt (Zoological Society of London, UK)
 Naida Loskutoff (Center for Conservation & Research, USA)
Technology Subcommittee Co-Chairmen:
 Philip Damiani (U. Utah, USA)
 Damien Paris (U. Melbourne, Australia)

2004 Mid-Year Working Meeting

The 2004 working meeting of the IETS CANDES Parent Committee will be held on Friday, 12 November 2004 at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Third International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology for the Conservation and Genetic Management of Wildlife to be held on 13-14 November 2004. The program for this symposium is now confirmed and will be posted on the IETS CANDES homepage (under the "Symposia" link) the first week of June, 2004.

Financial Assistance for CANDES Members to Attend the 2004 Mid-Year Working Meeting and Symposium

Dr. Lee Simmons, Director of the Henry Doorly Zoo, has committed to provide \$10,000 on an annual basis to assist with the IETS CANDES mid-year working meeting and symposia (the next symposium will be held in July 2006 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Reproduction in Omaha, Nebraska). Because of our homepage on the IETS website, I have received e-mails from several companies that specialize in materials used in veterinary applications of ART requesting information on exhibiting their products or sponsoring events at the symposium. These, in addition to the registration fees, should cover the expenses of the 2004 mid-year meeting and symposium.

Respectfully Submitted,



Naida M. Loskutoff, Chairman of the IETS CANDES Parent Committee