



International Embryo Transfer Society

Parent Committee on Companion Animals,
Non-Domestic & Endangered Species
(CANDES)

Report to the IETS Board of Governors
30 April 2006

January 2006 Subcommittee Meetings

Dr. Linda Penfold hosted the working meeting at the White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee, Florida on 4-5 January 2006. Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo sponsored the event. Present were all of the members of the IETS CANDES Executive Committee except for Co-Chair O'Brien who sent regrets. Welcomed were two new members: Dr. Rebecca Spindler of the Toronto Zoo who is the CANDES Secretary and Dr. Penfold who is Co-Chair of the CANDES Regulatory Subcommittee. The purpose of this meeting was for the CANDES Executive Committee to review the original objectives of their subcommittees, assess progress and define new goals for the future, including strategies to attract more active membership. The Research and Technology Subcommittee Co-Chairs met for discussions jointly as did the Co-Chairs of the Regulatory and Health & Safety Subcommittees. All met in a plenary session at the end of the two days to report and discuss their conclusions.

Reports from the Subcommittees

Joint Research (Co-Chairs: Rebecca Krisher & Monique Paris) & Technology (Co-Chairs: Damien Paris & Philip Damiani) Subcommittee Meeting

The Resource Manual on the IETS CANDES website now contains 24 protocols and 105 pages. Dr. Jason Herrick of the Cincinnati Zoo will replace Dr. Bill Swanson as the Taxon Leader for carnivores. The Executive Committee extends their thanks and gratitude to Dr. Swanson for his service since 2001. Three new Taxon Leaders have been identified: for birds, Dr. Juan Manuel Blanco will be approached; for fish, Dr. Boris Dzyuba of the Institute for Problems of Cryobiology and Cryomedicine of NAS of the Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine; and for marine mammals, Dr. Todd Robeck of Sea World Texas, San Antonio, Texas. Both Dr. Dzyuba and Dr. Robeck have agreed to become Taxon Leaders.

Progress on the development of an endnote literature resource with the primary goal to prioritize research areas that need development for CANDES was reviewed. It was felt that it would be worthwhile to prepare a special issue of a journal. Publication of this information in a scientific journal was recognized as the most effective form of information dissemination and timelier than a book. As the number of potential topics are vast (ranging from basic endocrinology, through AI, IVF, ET, to stem cells, cloning and xenografting), cutting-edge technologies would be the priority for articles to be included in a special issue of a journal entitled "A Perspective on the Role of Emerging Technologies for the Propagation of CANDES." A list of technologies were identified and several expert colleagues have been contacted for their assistance in conducting the literature searches and preparing an article. Co-Chair Krisher has initially contacted Sharon Mortimer (Reproduction, Fertility and

Development) to request a special issue likely to be published around July 2007. The Co-Chairs agreed to co-author the introductory chapter by 28 July 2006 and that all other articles for the issue be completed by 30 November 2006.

The Co-Chairs also discussed the possibility of holding workshops to cover more cornerstone technologies not addressed in the special issue. This would serve to get member input on the role of: 1) endocrinology/AI and 2) IVP-ET (including gamete rescue) for the propagation of CANDES. Experts in various taxa will be asked to prepare extended abstracts and lead discussions. They considered asking the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) to facilitate these workshops to follow the format of working groups to more effectively reach a conclusion. It is hoped proceedings can be made widely available and that workshops be held in conjunction with other planned conferences and/or symposia.

Finally, updates for the CANDES website were recorded. The Technology Subcommittee discussed methods to increase the Suppliers List. To increase membership and participation, the point was again raised to consider having an exhibition booth at the next IETS conference (Chairman Loskutoff will request that the IETS Board of Governors waive the fee).

Joint Regulatory (Co-Chairs: Justine O'Brien & Linda Penfold) & Health & Safety (Co-Chairs: Bill Holt & Naida Loskutoff) Subcommittee Meeting

Dr. Laura Hungerford of IUCN SSC CBSG (who assisted at the first workshop on disease risk analysis) was invited to the meeting to join the Co-Chairs in further developing the tools to conduct comparative disease risk analyses on biomaterial versus live animal transport. It was the intention of this group to complete the model used in the first workshop (i.e., transporting live gerenuk versus frozen semen from Kenya to the US) based on the actual experiences of Co-Chair Penfold over the past year. However, after it was realized that there was scant data available on disease transmission in this species, it was decided to change the model to a Kenyan domestic livestock breed (e.g., Boran cattle) as there was more actual data available that can increase the accuracy of the risk analysis using Decision Tree and @RISK software. The Co-Chairs agreed to continue working on reviewing the literature to complete this comparative disease risk analysis and plan to publish the results.

Other Business

2006 Mid-Year Meeting

The next working meeting (one day) will be held on Friday, 28 July 2006 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) meeting that will be held in Omaha. This working meeting will be held the day before a pre-conference symposium at the SSR conference on Saturday, 29 July 2006 focusing on assisted reproductive technology in CANDES. The program for this symposium can be found in Appendix 1 of the January 2006 CANDES report and on the SSR website: www.ssr.org.

Action Items for Consideration and Approval by the IETS Board of Governors:

1. We request that the fee for an exhibit booth be waived at the annual IETS conferences to allow the opportunity to attract more interest in membership and participation in the CANDES Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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