



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

Report to the IETS Board of Governors
June 2011

2011 CANDES Open and Working Meeting

A total of 52 people attended the open meeting in Orlando. The names and e-mail addresses of any new members were added to the CANDES Parent Committee listserv. Secretary Nucharin Songsasen recorded the minutes.

Report from the Technology Subcommittee:

Co-Chair Gabriela Mastromonaco reported that the summary of the discussion from the 2009 IETS post-conference workshop/symposium on the "Implementation of Artificial Insemination in CANDES" was being compiled and will be published in the June 2011 IETS Embryo Transfer Newsletter. Rodney Wade was selected as the candidate to replace Damien Paris as the Technology Subcommittee Co-Chair. The CANDES Parent Committee welcomes Rodney and thanks Damien for his valuable contributions to the CANDES Committee since 2001.

Report from the Regulatory Subcommittee:

Co-Chair Linda Penfold, on behalf of Justine O'Brien, updated the data regarding import/export regulations on the website. Linda and Justine co-wrote a book chapter entitled: Importation of non-domestic ruminant semen for management of zoological populations using artificial insemination. In: Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine: Current Therapy Vol 7, Eds. Miller and ME Fowler, Elsevier Inc., pp 604-611. Linda and Bill Holt are writing a book chapter on semen cryopreservation, assessment and artificial insemination in nondomestic ungulates that will include information on relevant issues such as semen disinfection, the use of antibiotics, clean storage techniques and import/export regulations (i.e., Linda's personal experience with gerenuk semen importation into the US from Kenya). It will be published in Animal Andrology (Eds: Steve Lorton and Peter Chenoweth) by Nottingham University Press. Linda also met with the USDA (Peter Merrill) regarding: the importation of ungulates from Canada, approval of a quarantine station for ungulate and importation of ungulate semen from Africa. Linda also mentioned the recently established International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology. This society provides a forum for investigators who study wildlife endocrinology (especially using enzyme immunoassays for fecal and urinary hormone metabolites). A consortium (also partnering with colleagues in Europe) was formed to generate antibodies for the zoo community. The next annual meeting will be in November 2011 at the Toronto Zoo.

Report from the Health & Safety Subcommittee:

Co-Chair Bill Holt reported that an Amphibian Biobanking Workshop was held at the Zoological Society of London in September 2010. This workshop involved two days of presentations plus one day of wet lab (technologies that are applicable to conservation, including blastomere transplantation, ICSI, semen collection and in vitro fertilization). The audio of the workshop will be available via the Amphibian Ark webportal. In October 2009, the Zoological Society of London organized a symposium on reproduction and environment (climate change). The proceeding has been published as a special issue of Phil Trans Royal Society and is freely available on the Royal Society website. Co-Chair Naida Loskutoff mentioned the development of the comparative disease risk assessment of biomaterial versus live animal transport and how this needs to be addressed further.

Linda Penfold is working with Bill White in validating PCR analysis for detection of infectious in semen samples.

A small group discussion was conducted after the open meeting (Naida Loskutoff, Jason Herrick, Linda Penfold, Gaby Mastromonaco, Rebecca Krisher, Bill Holt and Nucharin Songsasen) as to how to increase CANDES active membership. Jason and Linda suggested that we should organize a session specifically for CANDES (having an overview talk [invited speaker] and 10 min short communications of selected abstracts submitted to the IETS). There was a discussion about whether to have this session during the CANDES open meeting in the evening or as a concurrent session in the main meeting. The group favored the concurrent session. Rebecca Krisher is the Program Co-Chair for the 2012 IETS conference, and she will bring this idea to the Board (which was approved for the 2012 program). **To help attract more CANDES researchers to the IETS conference, we would like to ask the Board if they would approve this as a regular event in the main IETS program (a concurrent CANDES session to be held at the same time as the Practitioner's Forum) and, if approved, if we can include a check box on the online FASS submission site (beginning this year) for authors to indicate their willingness to present a short communication of their poster abstract on CANDES during this session [Governors: please respond with your decision].**

2011 Workshop

On January 12, 2011 we held a post-conference symposium entitled: International Regulations and Requirements for the Import/Export of Reproductive Biomaterials: Embryos, Semen and Tissues. This topic was selected based on our Committee's continued interest in understanding the current guidelines set forth by regulatory agencies such as the OIE, CITES and other governmental programs. The goal was to try to see how some of the regulatory requirements could be standardized internationally to possibly lessen some of the restrictions that have hampered research efforts in conservation sciences and biomaterial banking. There were a total of 70 registrants and 13 speakers (the extra hotel room costs were covered for all speakers and airtickets provided for 3). In the end, a profit of \$3,104.13 was made which was donated to the IETS. The CANDES Committee thanks the IETS Board of Governors, and particularly Past-President Peter Farin, for giving us the opportunity to hold the workshop. Since there was not enough time (organization began in June, 2010) to ask the invited speakers for written articles of their presentations, we plan to publish a summary of the workshop in the September issue of the Embryo Transfer Newsletter.

CANDES Website

At the 2011 IETS annual conference in Orlando, Website Committee Chair Matt Wheeler asked us to send all of the CANDES website information to the FASS office to incorporate directly into the new main IETS website. Previously (since 2001) the CANDES Committee website was sponsored by the Omaha Zoo and the link provided on the IETS website. In February 2011, Chair Naida Loskutoff sent all of the material to the FASS office and the CANDES Committee's website is now posted on the main IETS website and any further updates will be sent directly to FASS.

Respectfully Submitted,

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