After the DVM: Specialization

Bonnie V. Beaver, DVM, MS, DPNAP, DACVB
Texas A&M University
• Purpose of specialty organizations
• Purpose of specialty organizations
• American Board of Veterinary Specialties
• Purpose of specialty organizations
• American Board of Veterinary Specialties
  – Why animal welfare
  – Body of knowledge
  – What can we do
  – Path toward board certification
  – Where are we now
Specialty Organizations
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
  • Ensures high minimum level of expertise
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
  • Ensures high minimum level of expertise
    – Help colleagues in difficult situations
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
  • Ensures high minimum level of expertise
    – Help colleagues in difficult situations
      » Experts don’t tell how to do something, they help do it better
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
  – Ensures high minimum level of expertise
    – Help colleagues in difficult situations
    – Provide experts with credentials for “higher order of responsibility” when under review by outside groups
Specialty Organizations

- **Purpose**
  - Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
  - Ensures high minimum level of expertise
  - Enhances veterinary service to the public
Specialty Organizations

• Purpose
  – Promote advanced levels of competency in specific areas
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  • Enhances veterinary service to the public
  • Raises the standard of veterinary education
Specialty Organizations

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• Secondary benefits
  – Contribute new knowledge in the area
  – Promote public education
Specialty Organizations

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• Provide more initials to put behind your name 😊
ABVS
American Board of Veterinary Specialties
ABVS
American Board of Veterinary Specialties

• AVMA’s umbrella organization recognizing veterinary specialties
ABVS
American Board of Veterinary Specialties

• AVMA’s umbrella organization recognizing veterinary specialties
  – 20 ABVS recognized specialty organizations
  • 23 subspecialties within those specialty organizations
  • Last recognized organization – ACVB 1993
American Board of Veterinary Specialties

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ABVS
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• Separate specialty organizations do not have to be ABVS approved
ABVS
American Board of Veterinary Specialties

• AVMA’s umbrella organization recognizing veterinary specialties
  – 20 ABVS recognized specialty organizations
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    • Last recognized organization – ACVB 1993
  – Currently 2 new organizations being considered

• Separate specialty organizations do not have to be ABVS approved
  – Has not happened to date
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare
Why animal welfare
• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
• Review pros and cons on topic
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
  - Science based profession
  - Review pros and cons on topic
  - Don’t have all the science on a particular topic
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
  – Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
  - Science based profession
  - Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
- Talk to producers
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

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ACAW
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    • Talk to the public
    • Talk to researchers working on welfare issues

Dr. Dan Weary
Dr. Joy Mench
Dr. Ray Stricklin
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
  – Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
    • Talk to producers
    • Talk to the public
    • Talk to researchers working on welfare issues
    • Confusion about what is good welfare
Housing – Laying Hens
## Housing – Laying Hens

Adapted from the LayWel Report and AVMA AW Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Conventional Cage</th>
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<td>Mortality (%)</td>
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<td>Bone strength and fractures</td>
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- **Small**: Good
- **Medium**: Medium
- **Large**: Poor
- **Single Level**: Insufficient data
- **Multiple Levels**: Insufficient data

5 = Recent unpublished data indicate lower mortality may be achievable in large furnished cages

| = Reduced bone strength, fractures when birds are caught

* = Bones stronger from perch use but increased incidence of deformation of the keel

† = More fractures during lay despite stronger bones

How well welfare measures are met:
Housing – Laying Hens

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How well welfare measures are met:

Good | Medium | Poor | Insuff Data

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# Housing – Laying Hens

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- How well welfare measures are met:
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How well welfare measures are met:

- Good
- Medium
- Poor
- Insuff Data
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
  - Science based profession
  - Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
    - Talk to producers
    - Talk to the public
  - Confusion about what is good welfare
    - Most practitioners are not knowledgeable on variety of topics
AACA
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
  – Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
    • Talk to producers
    • Talk to the public
  • Confusion about what is good welfare
    – Most practitioners are not knowledgeable on variety of topics
    – Unable to dispute mistruths being touted
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
  – Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
    • Talk to producers
    • Talk to the public
    • Confusion about what is good welfare
    • Ethical issues become part of the debate
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

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    • Talk to the public
  • Confusion about what is good welfare
  • Ethical issues become part of the debate
  • Help shape public policy
A CAW  
American College of Animal Welfare

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  • Ethical issues become part of the debate
  • Help shape public policy
    – One veterinarian on a committee
ACAW  
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
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    • Talk to producers
    • Talk to the public
  • Confusion about what is good welfare
  • Ethical issues become part of the debate
• Help shape public policy
  – One veterinarian on a committee
    » Not one for poultry, one for beef, one for dairy – just ONE
• Why animal welfare
  – Science based profession
  – Public expects veterinarians to take the lead
    • Talk to producers
    • Talk to the public
  • Confusion about what is good welfare
  • Ethical issues become part of the debate
  • Help shape public policy
    – One veterinarian on a committee
    » Not one for poultry, one for beef, one for dairy – just ONE
    » Broad overview knowledge is critical to getting it right!
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
  – Journals devoted to animal welfare
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Journals devoted to animal welfare
    • 7 journals devoted to animal welfare subjects
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare

• Body of knowledge
  – Journals devoted to animal welfare
    • 7 journals devoted to animal welfare subjects
    • 3 journals with numerous animal welfare articles
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare

• Body of knowledge
  – Journals devoted to animal welfare
    • 7 journals devoted to animal welfare subjects
    • 3 journals with numerous animal welfare articles
    • 81 journals that frequently have welfare articles
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Books devoted to animal welfare
Why animal welfare

Body of knowledge

- Books devoted to animal welfare
  - “Animal welfare books”
    - 8,090,000 sites
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Books devoted to animal welfare
    • “Animal welfare books”
      – 8,090,000 sites
    • “Animal rights books”
      – 49,700,000 sites
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Areas that animal welfare covers
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Areas that animal welfare covers
    • Concepts and history of animal welfare
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
  – Areas that animal welfare covers
    • Concepts and history of animal welfare
    • Ethical issues
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare

• Body of knowledge
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    • Animal welfare assessment considerations
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

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• Role of the veterinary profession in promoting welfare
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
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    • Role of the veterinary profession in promoting welfare
    • Individual veterinarian’s role in promoting welfare
A CAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare

• Body of knowledge
  – Areas that animal welfare covers
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    • Role of the veterinary profession in promoting welfare
    • Individual veterinarian’s role in promoting welfare
    • Impact of human, animal, environmental interactions
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
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    • Regulations, policies, and guidelines
    • Contemporary animal welfare issues
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do
  – Governmental agencies
    • USDA inspections
    • Uniformed services
• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do
  – Governmental agencies
  – Industry
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
  - Governmental agencies
  - Industry
  - Research facilities and academia
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
  - Governmental agencies
  - Industry
  - Research facilities and academia
  - Private consulting
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
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  – Industry
  – Research facilities and academia
  – Private consulting
  – Non-profit organizations
    • Regional, national, international
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
- Path toward board certification
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
  - Provisional route
- Path toward board certification
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do
• Path toward board certification
  – Provisional route
    • Experience prior to ABVS recognition
    • Document that obtained knowledge
    • 2 scientific publications in animal welfare related topics
    • Pass the examination
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do
• Path toward board certification
  – Provisional route
  – Training program route
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
- Path toward board certification
  - Provisional route
  - Training program route
    - Approved residency program
    - 2 scientific publications in animal welfare related topics
    - Pass the examination
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do

• Path toward board certification
  – Provisional route
  – Training program route
  – Alternate routes
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
- Path toward board certification
  - Provisional route
  - Training program route
  - Alternate routes
    - Design a program to meet all requirements of an approved training program
    - Pass the examination
ACAW
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• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
• What can we do
• Path toward board certification
• Where are we now
ACAW
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- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
- Path toward board certification
- Where are we now
  - 30 member Organizing Committee
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

- Why animal welfare
- Body of knowledge
- What can we do
- Path toward board certification

- 30 member Organizing Committee
- Petition for recognition submitted to ABVS
ACAW
American College of Animal Welfare

• Why animal welfare
• Body of knowledge
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• Path toward board certification
• Where are we now
  – 30 member Organizing Committee
  – Petition for recognition submitted to ABVS
  – Decision expected February, 2011
Thank You!