

Working Within and With the AVMA



Gail C. Golab, PhD, DVM
Assistant Director, Communications
Staff Consultant, Animal Welfare

Who are we?



- Mission—To improve animal and human health and well-being and advance the veterinary medical profession
- Objective—To advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health, biological science, and agriculture.
- >70,000 member veterinarians representing virtually every species emphasis and every type of practice

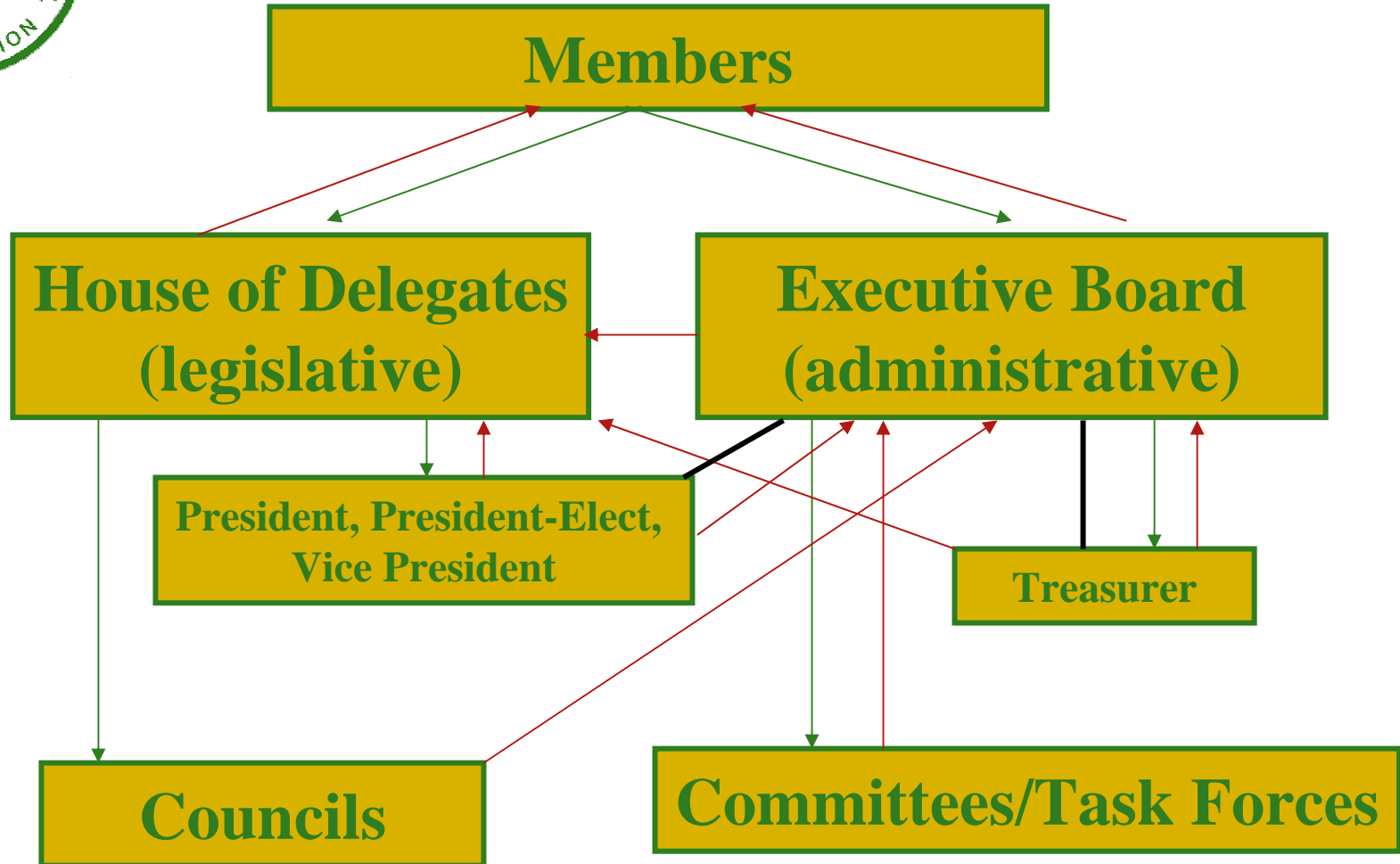
What do we do?



- Identify and research issues related to veterinary practice and animal care
- Develop positions and policies
- Make recommendations
- Help find workable solutions
- Advocate

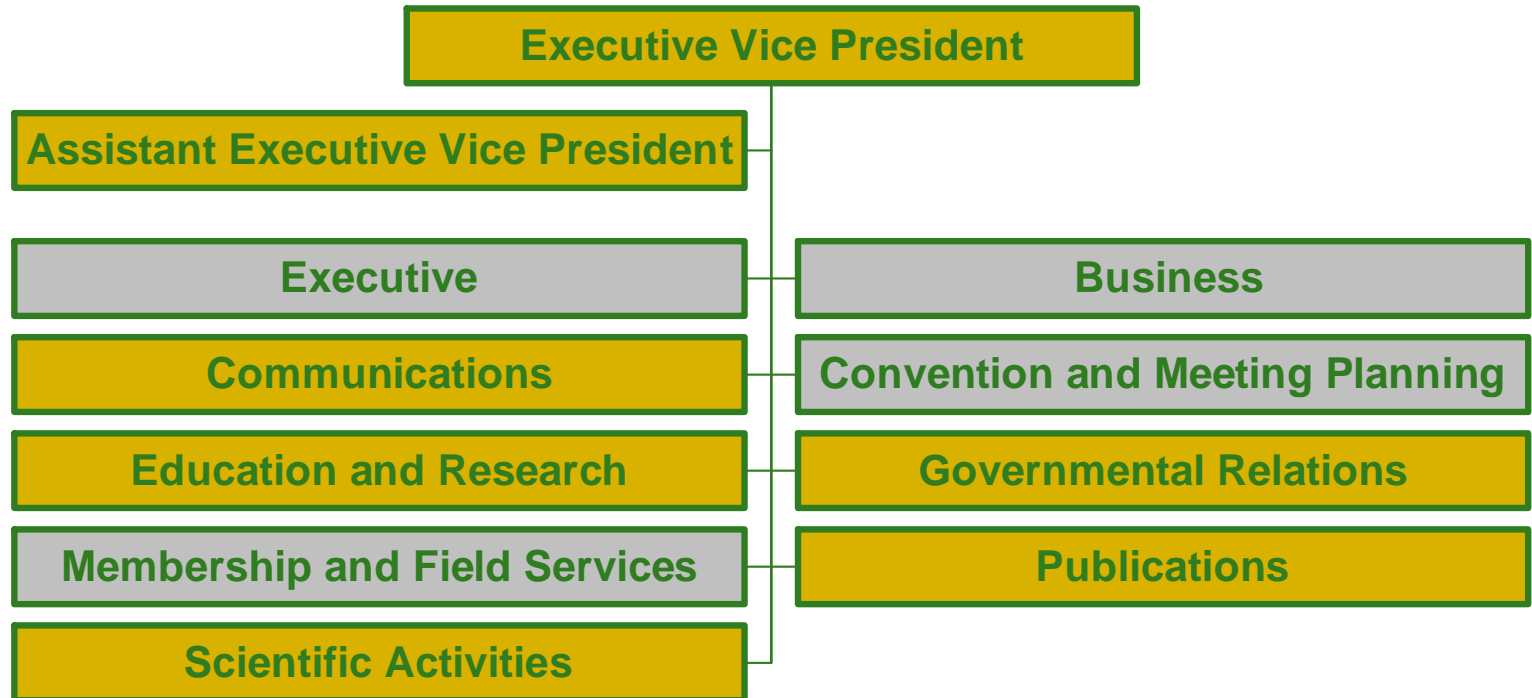
How do we work?

Volunteers

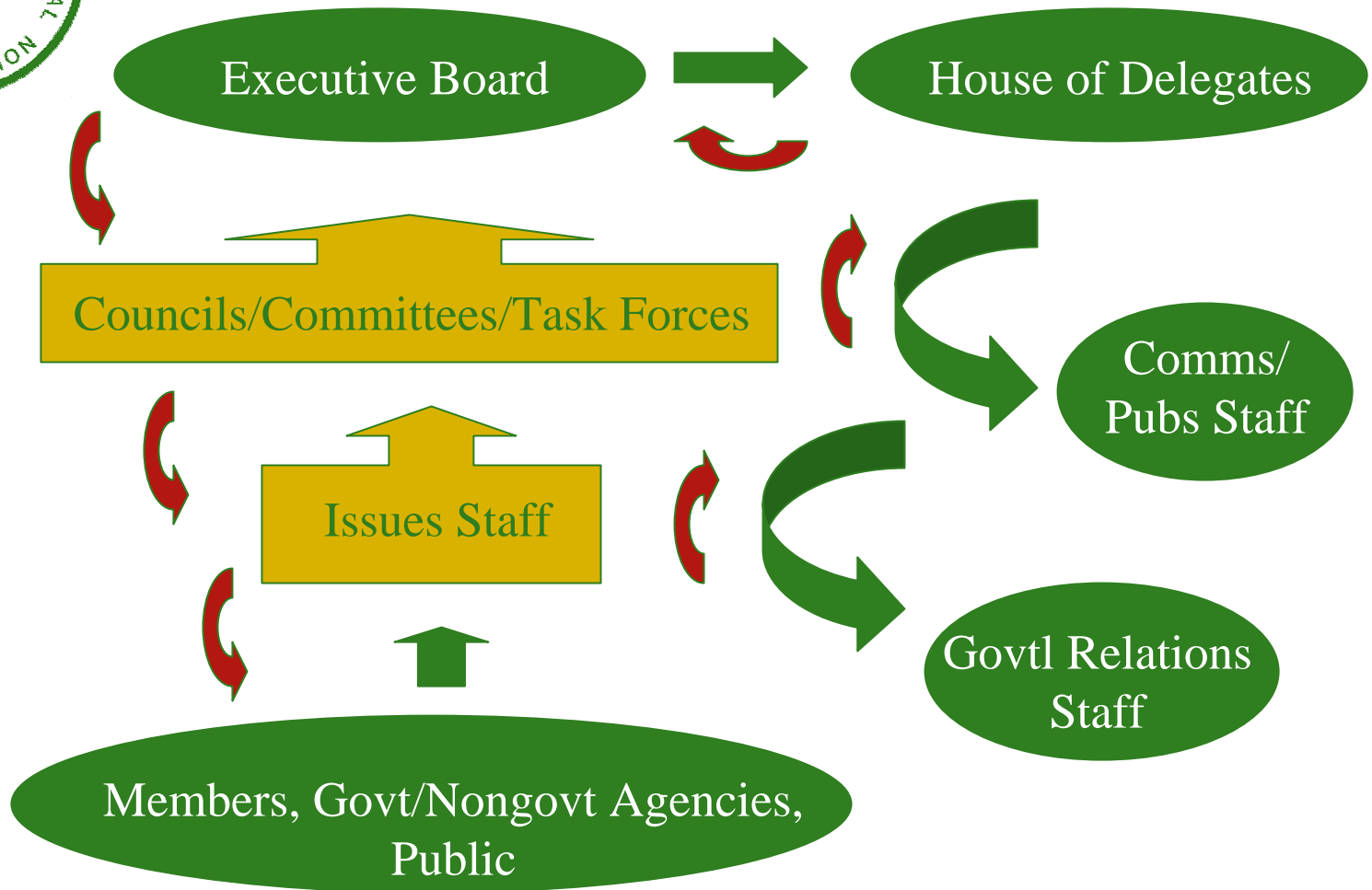


How do we work?

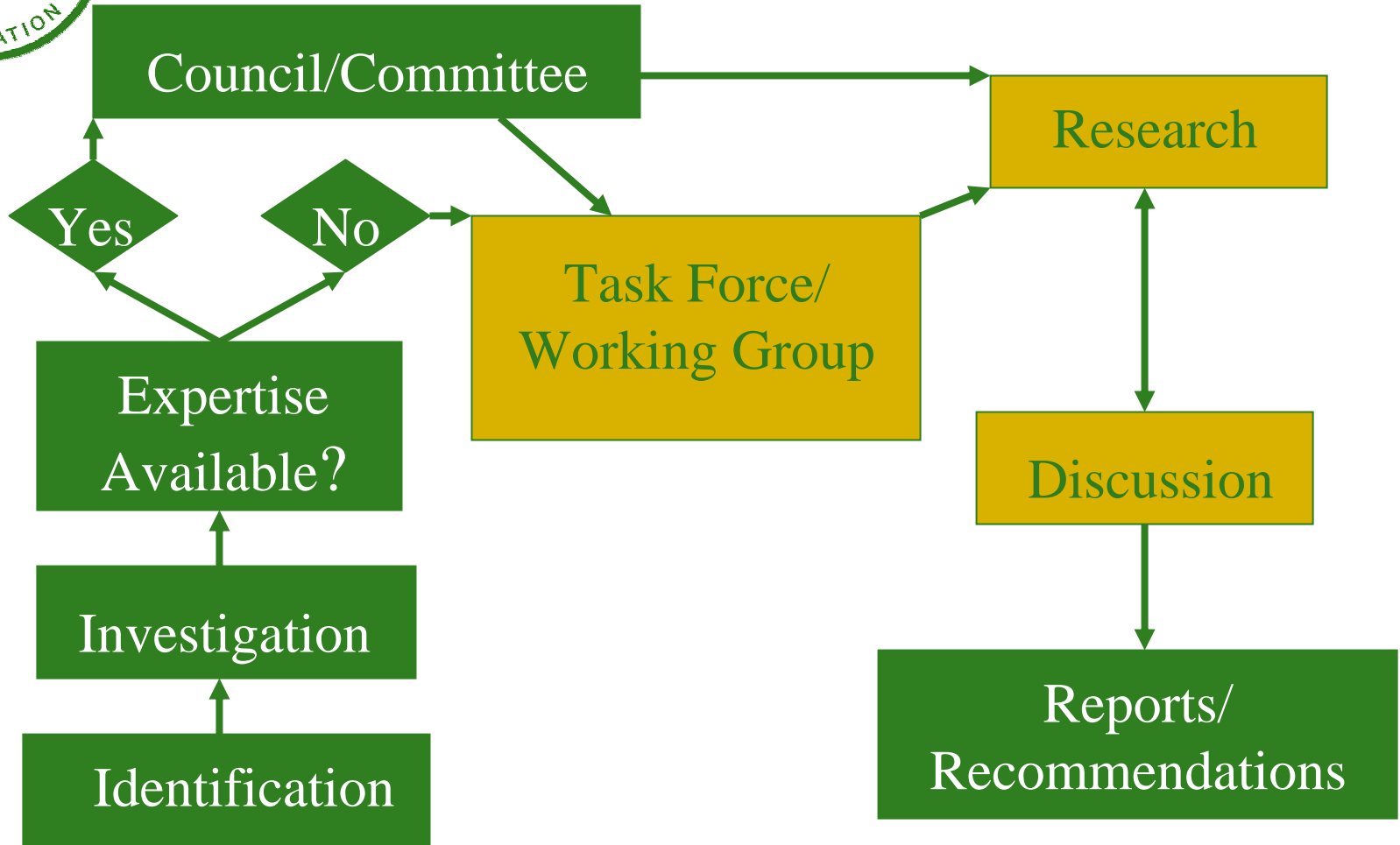
Staff



Managing Issues



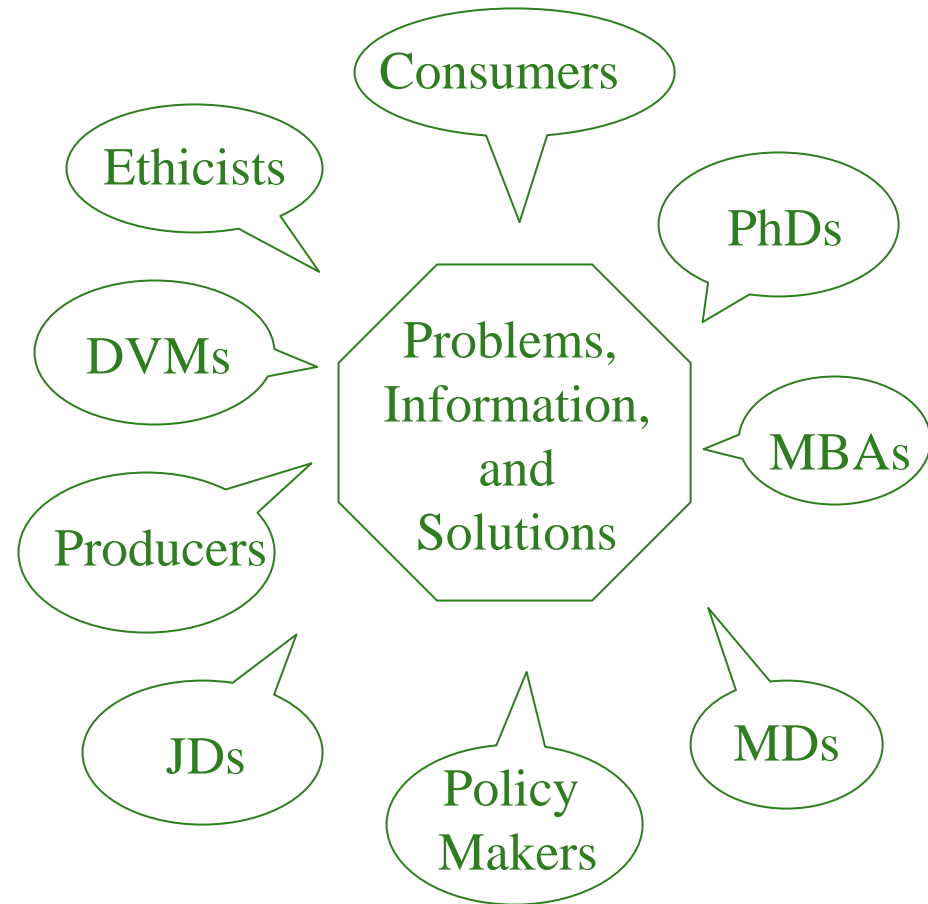
“Crunching” Issues



Good Decision-Making



- Most issues have multiple components
 - Science
 - Clinical experience
 - Practical application
 - Public policy
- Most outputs benefit from multiple inputs
- Transparency





Examples of Multidisciplinary Efforts

■ Task Force on the Housing of Pregnant Sows

- July 2002—AVMA position on gestation housing established
- July 2003—Resolution passed by House

That the AVMA conduct a thorough and objective review of the scientific evidence relating to impacts on the health and welfare of keeping breeding sows in gestation stalls.

- November 2003—Multidisciplinary task force created at the request of the Animal Welfare Committee
 - Clinicians
 - Researchers (DVMs/PhDs)
 - Economist
 - Producers/Industry
 - Advocates and Ethicists
 - Statistician



Examples of Multidisciplinary Efforts

- Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions
 - Multidisciplinary task force
 - DVMs
 - Behaviorists
 - Humane community
 - Insurance Industry
 - Animal control
 - MDs
 - Attorney
 - Governmental interactions—CDC
 - Outcome—Report that has positively influenced public policy

Cooperativity in Science and Policy—Key to Animal Well-Being



- Animal (and human) welfare requires consideration of
 - Animal well-being
 - Professional ethics
 - Producer concerns and economics
 - Consumer expectations
- Consideration of these factors requires input from a range of stakeholders

Cooperating in the Science of Animal Well-Being—DVMs and PhDs



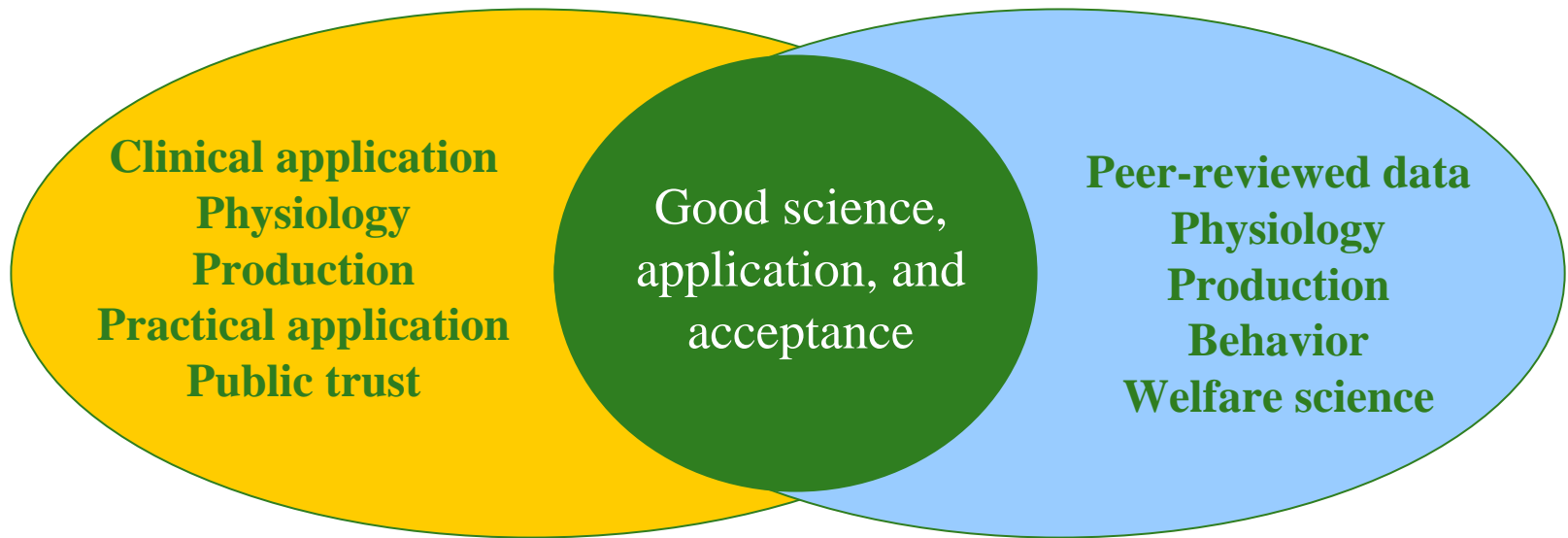
■ DVMs

- Training
 - Broad clinical focus
 - Health, physiology, and production
 - Limited exposure to behavioral and animal welfare science
 - Practical application
- Responsible to
 - Patient
 - Client (animal owner, producer, consumers)

■ PhDs

- Training
 - Narrow focus (the details)
 - Physiology, production, behavior
 - May have limited opportunity for practical application (extension possible exception)
- Responsible to
 - Peers
 - Institution/agency/grant provider

Cooperating in the Science of Animal Well-Being—DVMs and PhDs



Catalyzing Cooperation in the Science of Animal Well-Being



- Within the AVMA
- Between AVMA and USDA
- With other stakeholders
 - Academics
 - Industry
 - Other nonprofits

Catalyzing Cooperation—Well-Being Efforts Within the AVMA



■ Animal Welfare Committee

- Charge—To study animal welfare issues of importance to the veterinary profession, develop related positions, and identify areas in which the AVMA should call upon its resources and influence to cause action to be taken.
- 16 Members
 - Species expertise (companion animal [dog, cat, bird], equine, food animal [cattle, swine, poultry, sheep and goats], laboratory animal)
 - Practice expertise (private, industry, government service)
 - Education
 - Humane organization
 - Public member (currently AVMA auxiliary representative)
- Consultant—USDA-APHIS-AC Deputy Administrator

Catalyzing Cooperation—Well-Being Efforts Within the AVMA



- Task Forces and Working Groups
 - Task Force on the Housing of Pregnant Sows
 - Task Force on the Legal Status of Animals
- *The Veterinarian's Role in Animal Welfare*—AVMA's current position statements on animal welfare issues
- Annual Awards
 - Animal Welfare Award—To a veterinarian
 - Humane Award—To a nonveterinarian

Catalyzing Cooperation—Well-Being Efforts Within the AVMA



- Backgrounders on critical issues
- Bibliographic database—*Humans & Other Species*
- Continuing education programs
- International Relationships
 - International Veterinary Officers Council
 - PanVet
 - World Veterinary Association

Catalyzing Cooperation—Well-Being Efforts Within the AVMA



■ Animal Welfare Week and Forum

- Annual event for past 15 years
- Subject changes
- Week—Series of media releases (print and audio) highlighting veterinarians' roles in ensuring the welfare of animals
- Forum
 - Day-long event
 - Multiple perspectives
 - Open to the public
 - Proceedings published in the *Journal of the AVMA*

Catalyzing Cooperation—Between AVMA and USDA



- Liaison with USDA/APHIS-AC through representation on the Animal Welfare Committee
- Future Trends in Animal Agriculture
- OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards Initiative

Catalyzing Cooperation—OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards Initiative



■ History

- Identified as priority in 2001-2005 OIE Strategic Plan and Ad hoc Group on Animal Welfare convened
- May 2002—Ad hoc group's recommendations unanimously adopted
- International Committee determines focus to be animals used in agriculture and aquaculture
 - Transport
 - Humane slaughter
 - Other uses (e.g., research, entertainment, companions) to be addressed later and as resources permit
 - Killing for disease control
 - Housing and Management

Catalyzing Cooperation—OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards Initiative



■ History (continued)

- October 2002—Permanent Working Group established and holds first meeting; develops work plan
- May 2003—Working Group's work plan adopted
- February 2004—Global Conference on Animal Welfare held to solicit stakeholder input
- May 2004—Guiding Principles adopted
- Current—Comments being requested on reports of ad hoc groups on
 - Slaughter of animals for human consumption
 - Humane killing of animals for disease control purposes
 - Land transport of animals
 - Transport of animals by sea

Catalyzing Cooperation—OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards Initiative



■ AVMA's Involvement

- Member of US Delegation to the OIE (liaison—Dr. Lyle Vogel)
- Participated in Global Conference on Animal Welfare (liaison—Dr. Gail Golab)
- Provide input to USDA to assist in formulation of US response to proposals

Catalyzing Cooperation—OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards Initiative



- “Take homes” from the Global Conference on Animal Welfare
 - Wide variation in emphasis and “progress” of member countries on animal welfare
 - Expectations
 - Educational emphasis
 - Guidelines
 - Stakeholder roles
 - Differences in philosophy on voluntary vs regulatory approaches
 - Differences in philosophy on what role animal welfare standards should play in trade negotiations

Catalyzing Cooperation—With Other Stakeholders



- Food Marketing Institute/National Council of Chain Restaurants (FMI/NCCR) Animal Welfare Program
 - Designed to be a cooperative Retailer–Producer–AW Expert project
 - Basis is producer-created guidelines
 - Iterative review by expert panel (representation includes veterinarians [AVMA], animal welfare scientists/researchers, ethicist, humane representative)
 - Outcome—third-party audit process for retailers
 - Challenges
 - Economics
 - Fear/resistance

Catalyzing Cooperation—With Other Stakeholders



- National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP, www.petpopulation.org)
 - AVMA is one of the founding members (2 representatives on the NCPSP Board of Directors)
 - Mission
 - To gather and analyze reliable data that further characterize the number, origin, and disposition of pets (dogs and cats) in the United States
 - To promote responsible stewardship of these animals
 - To recommend programs to reduce the number of surplus/unwanted pets in the United States
- Other activities
 - Scientific review committees, panels, and work groups
 - Coalitions

Cooperating in the Science of Animal Well-Being—An AVMA “Wish List”



■ Data

- Scientific (real world and US operations)
- Economic
- Information about ongoing studies in “hot” animal welfare areas

■ Help in obtaining/disseminating information

- Appropriate governmental agencies
- Networking between AVMA, governmental agencies, academic research centers
- Public (extension?)



Animal Welfare

- Assessment
 - Science
 - Physiology, production
 - Behavior (affective states?)
 - Ethics
 - Consumer perspectives
- Animal rights vs animal welfare (activism)
- Pain, stress, and distress



Animal Welfare

■ Food Animals

- Housing of pregnant sows
- Induced molting (resolution introduced to HOD by petition)
- Foie gras (resolution introduced to HOD by petition)
- Downed animals

■ Companion Animals

- Elective surgical procedures (declawing, ear cropping, tail docking)
- Puppy mills
- Management of abandoned and feral cats



Animal Welfare

- Horses
 - Slaughter (HR 857/S 2352)
- Laboratory animals
 - Pain and distress
 - Sources (e.g., class B dealers)
 - Medical records
- Zoo and exotics
 - Elective surgical procedures
 - Appropriateness for captivity and ownership
- Aquatics
 - Principles unique (poikelothermic, invertebrates)



Other Issues of Interest

- Food supply veterinary medicine
 - Number of food animal practitioners declining
 - Roles changing
 - Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition
 - Will examine all aspects of veterinary medicine's involvement in food supply systems (production → consumption)
 - First project—Comprehensive study
 - ◆ Demand and availability
 - ◆ Education (student recruitment, retention, and training)



Other Issues of Interest

- Antimicrobial resistance—Support a science and risk-based response (e.g., FDA change in approval process to add evaluation of resistance risks)
- Vaccination
 - Customization of vaccination programs
 - Improved labeling of biologics (cooperative efforts with USDA/Center for Veterinary Biologics)
 - Improved system for adverse effects reporting
- Compounding



Other Issues of Interest

- National Veterinary Accreditation Program Revision
- US Animal Identification Plan
- National Response Plan
- Biosecurity and priority disease responses (National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps [NAHERC])
- Mass euthanasia and carcass disposal
- CAFOs, including net-pen aquaculture (environmental issues)



Other Issues of Interest

■ Research

- National Needs for Research in Veterinary Science—NAS study
- Research, Education, and Economics Task Force (Agricultural Research Service)
- Working to encourage
 - Continued funding for National Research Initiative Federal Grants Program
 - Continued support for Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) programs



Other Issues of Interest

- Legislation and Appropriations
 - Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) Animal Health Act (S 741/HR 2079)
 - Federal funding for the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (PL 108-161)
 - Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR 857/S 2352)