



PIJAC ZONOSSES COMMITTEE

2017 REPORT

The Zoonoses Committee consists of experts from different segments of the pet industry, veterinary medicine and public health, assisted by PIJAC staff and consultants. During 2017, the Zoonoses Committee welcomed Danielle Stanek, who replaced Joni Scheftel as the representative of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians; Nick Saint-Erne, representing Petsmart; and Mia Cary, the first committee member from AVMA. Savonne Caughey joined PIJAC as Director of Government Relations and now serves as staff liaison to the committee.

Members

Thomas Edling, DVM, MSpVM, MPH; Vice President, Veterinary Medicine, Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. (Co-Chair)

Laura (Peach) Reid - President, Fish Mart, Inc. (Co-Chair)

Mia Cary, DVM, Chief of Professional Development & Strategic Affairs, AVMA

John Mack - President, Reptiles by Mack, Inc.

Chris Newman – Reptile and Exotic Pet Trade Association (United Kingdom)

Nick Saint-Erne, DVM, Petsmart, Inc.

Jim Seidewand, Pet World, Inc.

Danielle Stanek, DVM, Florida Department of Health (representing NASPHV)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Liaison

Casey Barton Behravesh, MS, DVM, DrPH, DACVPM, Director, One Health Office

PIJAC Staff

Savonne Caughey – Director, Government Affairs, PIJAC

Scott Hardin – Science Advisor, PIJAC

2017 Accomplishments

- Renewed a Memorandum of Understanding between PIJAC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through 2020, to foster collaboration to prevent transmission of zoonotic illnesses from pets.
 - Held conference call with major CDC zoonotic illness groups (One Health, Enteric Zoonoses, Viral Special Pathogens, Bacterial Special Pathogens, Global Migration and Quarantine).

- Thomas Edling facilitated a meeting between PIJAC's Executive Committee and American Veterinary Medical Association leadership to pursue cooperative projects (education, outreach, material distribution) to prevent zoonotic illness.
 - AVMA joined the Zoonoses Committee in December.
- Hosted a meeting with FDA, CDC, NASPHV, Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group to explore options to the current FDA 4-inch minimum carapace requirement for sale of pet turtles, with reference to the specialized turtle trade. (March 30, 2017)
 - Presentations by Richard Fife (private breeder, member of the Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group), Megin Nichols (CDC), Danielle Stanek (NASPHV), Scott Hardin (PIJAC)
- Josh Jones (PIJAC) distributed Zoonoses Committee material at National Amphibian and Reptile Breeders Conference shows in Arlington, TX and Tinley Park, IL.
 - 114 Healthy Herp Handling posters
 - September 2017 Health Alert regarding Salmonella and pet turtles.
 - PIJAC Reptile & Amphibian Expo Best Management Practices
 - PIJAC Feeder Rodent Production and Distribution Best Management Practices
 - PIJAC Small Animal Standards of Care
- [PIJAC animal care sheets](#)
 - Revised Aquatic Turtle Care Sheet with “Avoiding Human Illness” section and link to CDC Healthy Pets website
 - Coordinated with Herp Subcommittee on development of Aquatic Turtle Care Infographic including notice on *Salmonella* transmission and CDC link
 - Spanish-language version produced in response to CDC data suggesting increased turtle-associated Salmonellosis among Latino pet owners
- [Zoonotic Disease Prevention Series for Retailers](#)
 - Updated flyers
 - Salmonellosis
 - Psittacosis/Avian Chlamydiosis
 - New Flyers
 - Zoonotic Diseases of Dogs and Cats
 - Giardiasis
 - Toxoplasmosis
 - Seoul Virus
 - Published all flyers as a single pdf for simplified download
 - Cover letter providing guidance to retailers on customer education
 - Prepared draft Campylobacteriosis flyer in response to outbreak of antibiotic resistant strain in pet store puppies

- Coordinated with PIJAC's Small Animal Care Committee to include zoonotic prevention and remediation guidance in [Small Animal Care Standards](#) document

- Seoul Virus Outbreak
 - Hosted conference call with CDC and rodent breeders (feeder and pet) to discuss outbreak (January 31, 2017)
 - Posted Health Alert at PIJAC website (February 9, 2017)
 - Published Zoonotic Disease Prevention Series Flyer (August 9, 2017)
 - Updated Feeder Rodent Production and Distribution BMP to include Seoul Virus information in Appendix describing zoonotic diseases of rats and mice.
 - Discussions/preliminary planning with CDC to sample rodent producers and distributors to estimate prevalence of Seoul virus at larger commercial facilities

- *Salmonella*
 - Health Alert posted for *Salmonella* Agbeni outbreak associated with pet turtles (posted September 2017)
 - Online article on outbreak in Pet Product News (<http://www.petproductnews.com/Blog/PIJAC-Offers-Safety-Tips-Following-CDCs-Salmonella-Alert/>)