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## **AAVCT Conference Call Meeting Minutes**

**Monday  
13 February 2017**

**2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (EST)**

### **A. Call to Order**

- a. Christina Wilson called meeting to order at 2:05 pm

### **B. Forage Nitrate Round Robin**

- a. Lori Smith mentioned she still has forage from drought that occurred in 2012. Discussed possibility of having a nitrate round robin. Christina to send Lori an updated e-mail list of AAVCT members so Lori can e-mail members to gauge who is interested in participating in nitrate round robin.

### **C. Discussions Regarding Veterinary Toxicology**

#### **a. Current state**

- i. It was stated that of the 42 diagnostic labs in the U.S., only 17 have veterinary toxicology sections (as of March 2015) and that this shortage of toxicology labs is not limited to AAVLD labs and is a global issue.
- ii. There was a survey conducted approximately 10 years ago of all U.S. veterinary diagnostic labs for toxicology. Findings were dismal then and numbers have decreased since. It was suggested that the veterinary toxicology group initiate another survey and compare to the data collected previously.
- iii. It was mentioned that there is a concern about the decrease in the number of veterinary toxicologists and as they retire or leave, it is becoming more difficult to replace them.
- iv. When toxicology laboratories close, the following was discussed:
  1. The remaining toxicology labs that receive samples from other states (that do not have a toxicology laboratory) can get overwhelmed with samples.



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2. Some states without toxicology labs still receive samples from clients in their state to subcontract to another veterinary toxicology lab for testing.
  - a. Some mentioned the in-state clients do not want to ship directly to the subcontracting lab because they appreciate the in-state consult/interpretation.
  - b. It was also stated that there is a concern about missing out on local surveillance data when samples are sent to labs outside of their state.

**b. Future concerns and prospects**

- i. Some suggestions on diversifying into other areas of interest such as food or soil (inorganic), environmental analyses
- ii. Concerns were expressed by several members on the call regarding costs associated with turnover of equipment, capacity of some labs being saturated due to out-of-state test requests (from states that don't have a veterinary toxicology lab).
- iii. There may be a future problem with teaching toxicology at veterinary schools in the future due to: 1) veterinary schools not having a veterinary toxicologist on staff or when they don't replace retired veterinary toxicologists or 2) not having enough trained veterinary toxicologists available to teach those classes in the future.
- iv. There is a shortage of veterinary toxicology residency programs
- v. Prospects: FDA Vet-LIRN funding has been very beneficial in providing resources for veterinary toxicology laboratories.

**D. Other Business**

**E. Adjournment**