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November 4, 1957

Dr. Henry Van Roekel
Department of Veterinary Science
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Van Roekel:

In response to your request for views on the proposed organization of Avian Pathologists I shall reply to your questions in the order given. I am assuming that you have in your possession the proposed by-laws that were distributed at the AVMA meeting.

1. As to the purposes of the organization I believe one of the main functions should be to provide an organization through which objectives worthy of concerted effort may be acted upon by the members. At the present time there is no single place where anyone in our field can submit a proposal for action by other mutually interested persons. This organization could serve a very useful purpose as a common meeting place for avian pathologists. The other six objectives listed in the circulated by-laws seem worthy of our consideration.

2. The good that is derived from such an organization depends primarily upon how well we carry out our objectives. By means of resolution or some similar action the Association could be an influential voice in pressing for certain chosen objectives. Work that has been in progress by certain Regional groups, such as the vaccine evaluation committee, could possibly be given greater impetus if backed by such an Association. The Association could serve as a clearing house for ideas on improving better relations between scientific workers, better cooperation between Experiment Stations and industry, and as a place for airing many of our mutual problems.

3. Since several other specialty groups are already organized within the framework of the AVMA, I believe our organization should also be so affiliated. This would also automatically take care of the touchy problem of whether non-veterinarians should be considered as members. If we wish to include the latter as members, probably the best way to accomplish this would be as associate members.

4. If affiliated with the AVMA then, of course, members will have to be veterinarians. The most difficult problem in establishing the organization

is to determine who will be charter members. If this is to be a select organization then I don't believe anyone who attends the first organizational meeting should automatically become members. Some might get in this way who would be unable to acquire membership otherwise.

Could we establish a charter membership nucleus from those who have had a certain number of years of active participation in avian pathology (for instance 5 or 10 years)?

Acceptance of additional members should be subject to approval by a membership committee plus a two-thirds vote of the members. After selection of the charter membership additional applicants could be accepted as members or associate members with qualifications similar to those in the circulated by-laws.

5. The organization should meet at least once each year and as many other times as may be considered necessary. I believe preference should be given to meeting at the time of the AVMA meeting, but other times or places may be more convenient. I would presume much of the work of the organization would be carried out by committees which may have to meet oftener, such as the membership committee and resolutions committee.

6. I think there would have to be dues in order to cover the expenses of the organization. These should not be great at first and probably \$1.00 per member would be ample. If the organization ever takes over the sponsorship of a publication such as Avian Diseases, then the dues could be increased to also include subscription to the Journal.

If you decide on an organizational meeting on November 30 or December 1 in Chicago I shall try to be there if at all possible, although I may have difficulty in justifying a trip for a committee meeting only. If this organization becomes established, you can be assured one thing that I am going to press for is a discontinuance of the exclusion of those in industry by some of these halo-wearing organizations.

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES, INC.

S. B. Hitchner, V.M.D.
Research Veterinarian

SBH/bjw