

Chapter Two

Creation and Development of AALAS Programs

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A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal,
but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

— Proverbs 12:10 (NIV)

The provision of adequate and compassionate care for research animals was initially the desire of veterinarians, research investigators, and animal care personnel. In 1946, a few of these dedicated individuals began meeting in the animal facility office at the University of Chicago to exchange ideas and information, with the primary goals of improving the care, comfort, and health of animals.

At that time, Dr. Nathan R. Brewer was in charge of the animal facilities at the University and he was joined for regular monthly meetings by Chicago-area veterinarians Drs. Elihu Bond, Bennett J. Cohen, Robert J. Flynn, and Robert J. Schroeder. Early efforts to enhance the well-being of research animals were not undertaken by humane or animal welfare groups but, rather, by those involved in the actual care and use of laboratory animals.

In May, 1950, The Animal Care Panel (ACP) was organized and programs were launched when the pioneer group of five veterinarians drafted and sent a letter to all people in the United States and Canada who were known to have an interest in laboratory animal care. The letter proposed the establishment of a national animal care panel. The group received an overwhelming response, and the first animal care meeting was held in Chicago that same year. The initial effort was followed with four consecutive annual meetings in the Chicago area and a fifth session held in New York City.

Having established an enthusiastic animal care organization, the Animal Care Panel became a nonprofit educational association in 1953. Regulations for the care of dogs (*Standards for the Care of the Dog Used in Medical Research*, 1952) were published

and standards for animal care were prepared. Soon thereafter, a committee was formed to plan educational courses in laboratory animal care with preparation of an accompanying training syllabus to meet expanding instructional needs for animal technicians. An additional program resulting from these early meetings was the publication of the *Proceedings of the Animal Care Panel* in 1951. The introductory issue followed the 1950 ACP meeting and included information about the care and housing of animals from a commercial breeder's view, the importance of trained animal attendants, facilities for research in medical facilities, and past or planned activities of the Animal Care Panel.

During the next ten years, 1955–1964, the organization enjoyed rapid growth with concurrent expansion of programs. The Animal Care Panel moved to New York City in 1955 and located within the New York Academy of Science. The Board of Directors authorized formation of the first branch, the Metropolitan New York Branch, and invitations for affiliate member organizations were approved. Quarterly publication of the *Proceedings of the Animal Care Panel* by the New York Academy of Science, with Dr. Nathan R. Brewer as editor, was authorized in 1956. At this time, the Research and Educational Foundation was incorporated independently from the Animal Care Panel to raise financial support for laboratory animal research and care. The office returned to the Chicago area in 1957, where facilities were shared with the National Society for Medical Research. Part-time administrative services were provided by Joseph Garvey.

An ad hoc Professional Standards Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Bennett J. Cohen, was appointed by the president of the Animal Care Panel in 1960 to develop professional standards for laboratory animal care and facilities. Cohen's committee explored criteria for developing a voluntary certification program to recognize quality animal care facilities. Later that year, this group became the Animal Facilities Certification Committee and, in 1963, the committee changed its name to the Animal Facilities Accreditation Board. An Accreditation Board Advisory Committee was established; comprised of members from several medical, educational, and scientific organizations. In 1965, the Animal Facilities Accreditation Board became a private nonprofit organization and its name was changed to the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (currently the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International). Through this progressive development, hundreds of animal care and use programs are now accredited.



Joseph J. Garvey served the Animal Care Panel and AALAS as business manager and executive secretary from 1961 until 1983.

In 1961 the Animal Care Panel office was moved to Argonne, Ill. and Joseph Garvey was hired as full-time business manager. The association began publishing the *ACP Bulletin*, distributing 4,750 copies per issue. There were now 24 board members. The Institute for Laboratory Animal Resources (ILAR) and the Animal Care Panel appeared to be working toward similar goals. Thus, Dr. Bennett Cohen, representing the ACP, and Dr. Bert

Hill from ILAR decided that functions should be delineated so each organization would pursue different, but important, activities. The conclusion was that ILAR would focus on developing animal care standards with the ACP centered on advancing accreditation of animal facilities and care. As a result, the ACP produced and ILAR published the *Guide for Laboratory Animal Facilities and Care* in 1963. During the next 18 months, 35,000 copies of this publication were distributed.

Continued growth resulted in the recognition of ten branches by 1961. Each branch, with more than 25 members, and each affiliate organization were invited to name a representative to the Board of Directors. The board established the Animal Technician Certification Board (ATCB) and refined policies for the certification program. Several major programs were planned; to improve the content of the examinations, to conduct a meaningful examination program, and to award certificates to technicians upon successful completion of examinations.

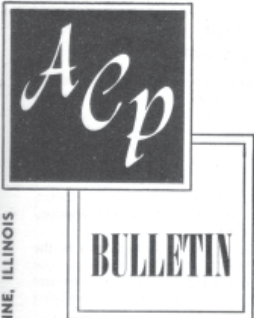
In 1963, the name of the organization's publication, *Proceedings of the Animal Care Panel*, was changed to *Laboratory Animal Care*, with an increase in distribution to six times annually. By now the annual meeting of the organization had expanded to a four-day conference featuring approximately 70 speakers presenting varied scientific information on topics such as gnotobiotics and closed-circuit television programming on animal techniques and procedures.

When the organization was 15 years old, in 1965, the group was beginning to outgrow its administrative structure. By 1966, the Animal Care Panel had expanded considerably with 1,911 members, 21 branches, and a board of 36 directors. A committee was appointed to consider a new name for the organization. One year later, the board unanimously selected the name, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). At that time, the name of the *ACP Bulletin* was also changed to the *AALAS Bulletin*.

The training guide titled, *Manual for Laboratory Animal Technicians*, was published in 1967 to assist those seeking certification at the Senior Animal Technician level. With membership at 2,200 by 1968, a Reorganization Committee was appointed to study the association's structure. As a result, the Committee on Laboratory Animal Technicians (COLAT) was formed in 1969 to survey the interests and needs of animal care personnel. COLAT actively involved animal technicians. A new section, *Technician Report*, was added to the *AALAS Bulletin*. The structure of AALAS was improved in 1970 by changing to governance by a Board of Trustees and creating Trustee Districts. At that time, Regional Examination Boards (REB's) were established to assist the Animal Technician Certification Board in further developing and administering the animal technician certification program. Certification levels added were Assistant Labora-

tory Animal Technician (ALAT), Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT), and Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG).

The name of the journal, *Laboratory Animal Care*, was changed to *Laboratory Animal Science* in 1971. Nationwide examination procedures were initiated in 1973 to ensure standardization of the animal technician certification process. By now, the annual AALAS Session was a five-day event with more than 200 speak-



ACP
BULLETIN

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ACP AWARDED CONTRACT BY THE N.I.H.

The Division of Research Grants of the National Institutes of Health has issued a contract to the Animal Care Panel to "determine and establish professional standards for laboratory animal care and facilities," it was announced by Dr. Melvin M. Rabstein, President of the Animal Care Panel.

President Rabstein appointed Dr. Bennett J. Cohen, Assistant Professor of Physiology and Director of the Vivarium, University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine as chairman for the project. Appointed to serve on the committee were: Dr. W. T. S. Thorp, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota; Dr. Thomas B. Clarkson, Associate Professor of Experimental Medicine and Director of the Vivarium, Bowman Gray School of Medicine; Dr. Bernard F. Trum, Director, Animal Research Center, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Orland A. Soave, Assistant Professor of Preventative Medicine and Director of the Animal Facility, Stanford University; and Dr. Robert J. Flynn, Research Veterinarian, Division of Biological and Medical Research, Argonne National Laboratory.

The committee had its initial meeting in Chicago on February 2, 1962. This was the first of a series of work sessions planned to implement the NIH contract. The group reviewed the information available and planned the drafting of a brochure on standards for laboratory animal care and facilities. The committee plans to publish the brochure later this year. The second work session of the committee is scheduled for May 14 and 15, 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The ACP was organized to develop and disseminate information on the care of laboratory animals. It came into being at a most fortuitous time, a time of tremendous expansion of bio-medical research which began after the war and has been continually increasing. Much of this research requires the use of huge numbers of laboratory animals which in turn has generated a critical need for information on all phases of laboratory animal care. Into this almost made-to-order opportunity the ACP stepped and has emerged as the one primary organization from which this needed information can be derived.

the *Proceedings* will emerge altered in appearance so that it conforms to the best in scientific journalism, but with the same dedication to the principles of scientific journalism. It should be remembered that the publishing of a journal is an expensive undertaking. Since our financial resources are limited it is not always possible to make improvements unless they will not constitute a serious drain on the treasury.

In the final analysis, despite the most elaborate facilities and equipment, the proper care of laboratory animals depends on well trained caretaker personnel, with an understanding of their importance on the research team. The training of animal caretakers has become a

In 1967, the *ACP Bulletin* was changed to the *AALAS Bulletin*. In the early 1990s, the name was changed to *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science*.

ers presenting scientific papers, seminars, and workshops. An audio tutorial program and plenary session were added to the program. District caucuses, allowing first-hand membership input, were also instituted in 1973.

AALAS was now a mature organization set for continued expansion and recognition over the next ten years. In 1977, the Research and Educational Foundation Committee disbanded, since AALAS by-laws forbade funding of research studies.

The committee was reappointed as the Awards and Educational Committee. Student clerkship training opportunities in laboratory animal medicine were funded through this program. Now known as the AALAS Foundation Board, this group continues to advise on policies, purposes, scholarships, grants, and awards.

Accuracy and professionalism of the animal technician certification program were improved with testing and grading assigned to the Animal Technician Certification Board. Revised teaching materials were prepared in 1982 and communication methods with technicians were



AALAS' national headquarters in Cordova, Tennessee. The association moved from the Chicago area to a suburb of Memphis in 1986. In 1999, the association moved from Cordova to Memphis at 9190 Crestwyn Hills Drive.

improved greatly by bulk mailing the *AALAS Bulletin* to the 33 branches. The Board of Trustees prepared position statements on the use of animals in biomedical research and on the use of animals in training and testing. The annual AALAS Session had expanded to a six-day meeting by 1983. Poster sessions were added to the program at this time and additional allied organizations sought affiliation with AALAS. Further, during this ten-year period, the AALAS office became computerized,

further increasing efficiency and communications.

Significant monumental changes occurred in 1986. AALAS purchased its own 7,000 square foot headquarters facility and relocated to Cordova, Tenn. This action set the stage for several positive changes in the association for the future. AALAS staff, membership, and programs continued to increase and a long-range planning initiative was undertaken. The additional office of vice-president elect was created and meetings of the Board of Trustees were scheduled twice annually. Publication efforts of AALAS continued to increase over the next several years. New publications included *Introduction to AALAS*, *Contributions to Man and Animals*, and *Challenge of a Lifetime*. A career instructional videotape, *Challenge to Care*, was produced.

The Association initiated a computerized animal technician test grading service in 1986. In 1987, the board added a practical slide examination to the certification testing program. Manuals for training at the ALAT and LATG levels were revised in 1990 and 1991 respectively. In addition, a national testing service was employed in 1991 to develop and administer technician examinations and 250 testing sites throughout the United States were available by 1997. The computer-based electronic information exchange program, Laboratory Animal Bulletin Board Systems, was developed in 1990 and transferred to the AALAS Office in 1992. To meet increasing educational demands from animal technicians, the *AALAS Bulletin* was expanded and published as a separate journal in 1991. The new journal included a section for refereed papers. Subsequently the name of the journal, *AALAS Bulletin*, was changed to *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science* in 1992. That year, attendance at the annual AALAS Session in Anaheim, Calif., was more than 3,000.

The AALAS Board of Trustees sanctioned development of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM) in 1992. Governed by the ILAM Board of Regents, this two-year certification program equips managers in the laboratory animal science industry to provide optimal oversight for animal care and use programs. By the end of 1998, 220 managers had been certified by ILAM.

AALAS continues its mission to serve society through education and the advancement of responsible animal care and use. The Association established an Awards Selection Committee to evaluate nominees and identify recipients for the Technician of the Year, Technician Publication, Research, Griffin, Garvey, and Collins Awards. The Publications Committee coordinated production of the various AALAS journals and publications. In 1998, AALAS had 8,994 members, of which 3,050 attended the organization's annual meeting. Because of constantly increasing space needs for expanding programs, the AALAS office moved to larger quarters in Memphis, Tenn. early in 1999.

AALAS enjoys the participation and cooperation of 19 affiliate organizations and recognizes 48 branches. An Internet web site was developed to provide current information. As the leading community of animal care specialists, the following long range goals have been adopted: AALAS will be recognized as the premier laboratory animal science association; its members' primary resource for continuing education, training, and knowledge exchange; financially secure and stable to ensure future viability, the catalyst for developing coalitions for public education; and led by competent volunteers who act effectively in the Association's best interest. The objective of AALAS is to remain the primary leader in the arena of animal care and use.

AALAS Program Development Chronology

- 1950** Animal Care Panel founded
- 1951** Publication of the *Proceedings of the Animal Care Panel* initiated
- 1953** Animal Care Panel incorporated
- 1955** Affiliate organizations recognized
- 1956** Research and Educational Foundation incorporated
- 1958** First Branch established
- 1960** Professional Standards Committee appointed (eventually became AAALAC International)
- 1961** Animal Technician Certification Board established
Independent Animal Care Panel office established in Argonne, Ill. with Joseph Garvey as full-time business manager
Publication of the *ACP Bulletin* initiated
- 1963** Name of *Proceedings of the Animal Care Panel* changed to the journal, *Laboratory Animal Care*
- 1967** Name of the organization, Animal Care Panel, changed to the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
Name of the *ACP Bulletin* changed to the *AALAS Bulletin*
First laboratory animal technician manual published for certification at the Senior Animal Technician level
- 1968** Reorganization Committee appointed to review administrative structure of AALAS
- 1969** Committee on Laboratory Animal Technicians appointed
Technician Report added to the *AALAS Bulletin*
- 1970** Organizational governance changed to oversight by a Board of Trustees with creation of Trustee Districts
Regional Examination Boards created with addition of the certification levels of Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician, Laboratory Animal Technician, and Laboratory Animal Technologist
- 1971** Name of the journal *Laboratory Animal Care* changed to *Laboratory Animal Science*
- 1973** Use of nationwide standardized technician examinations implemented
District Caucuses instituted during the AALAS session
- 1977** Research and Educational Foundation Committee changed to Awards and Education Committee
- 1986** Purchase of AALAS headquarters building in Cordova, Tenn.
Computerized animal technician test grading instituted
- 1990** Electronic Laboratory Animal Bulletin Board System established
- 1991** Use of a national animal technician examination testing service implemented
AALAS Bulletin expanded and published as a separate journal
- 1992** Name of the journal, *AALAS Bulletin*, changed to *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science*
- 1993** Institute for Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM) established
- 1997** Animal technician examination testing sites established at 250 sites throughout the United States

Conclusion

Over the past 50 years, AALAS has become a dynamic, growing, and highly visible organization. The great strength of AALAS has always been its ability to include the vast talents of a largely diverse membership. Members include research investigators, veterinarians, and other medical professionals—as well as countless animal care experts who encompass animal care managers, animal health care personnel, research technicians, and animal care specialists. AALAS has been uniquely proficient in recognizing individual's potentials and motivating members to share their talents in accomplishing desired goals for the Association.

AALAS has led the world in improving animal care and use. Major accomplishments include dissemination of information through meetings, publications, audio visual programs, and electronic communication; excellent training and certification procedures for all levels of animal technicians; and early establishment of a superior animal care and use program accreditation agency.

From its inception, AALAS has enjoyed a position of trust and responsibility in the scientific community. Its members

are well-recognized as professionals in animal science, care, medicine, and use. This position has allowed the organization to earn respect from numerous excellent affiliated groups. Together, with continued cooperation of these groups, a great future certainly awaits AALAS.

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