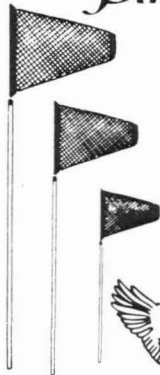


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Newcastle Disease Strikes Again

A new outbreak of exotic Newcastle Disease (VVND) was announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on February 21, 1979. The current outbreak is centered in the three southern California counties of Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange. Four premises were under quarantine as of February 28, 1979, three of which are private aviaries and the fourth, the Parrot World pet store in Garden Grove.

The U.S.D.A. quickly responded with the establishment of the Newcastle Task Force in Costa Mesa, CA on February 22, 1979. On February 23rd A.F.A. representatives Lee Horton and Jerry Jennings met with Task Force personnel to discuss the eradication procedures to be implemented during the present crisis. Task Force members in attendance were Dr. Mitchell, Director, Dr. Jack Lamont, Assistant Director, Dr. John Orsborne, Director of all California Department of Food and Agriculture veterinary services laboratories, Dr. Ongert, Acting Regional Director for the Western Region USDA Veterinary Services, Dr. Mathis, chief of field operations, and Dr. Dietrick, Orange County Veterinarian and County Liaison. Mr.

Gene Hall, Mr. Frank Miser, and Dr. Raymond Kray representing commercial dealers and the private veterinary practitioners respectively, were present at the A.F.A.'s request.

The U.S.D.A. Task Force has adopted the so-called Bronze Wing policy, called for with some revisions and clarifications in A.F.A.'s lawsuit against the U.S.D.A., which was filed in 1977 in response to a VVND outbreak at the time. The procedures to be employed by the Task Force under the Bronze Wing Policy are reasonable and A.F.A. tentatively supports them at this time, but A.F.A. will still continue with its lawsuit until a satisfactory agreement can be reached on the regulation between A.F.A. and the U.S.D.A.

A.F.A. recommends that members cooperate with Task Force officials, should they be contacted by Task Force personnel. If members feel the Task Force is not adhering to the above procedures, they should contact A.F.A. immediately. A.F.A. will be happy to answer any questions regarding the current outbreak, and render assistance.



U.S.D.A. Task Force meeting February 22, Dr. Ongert at center of table facing the group.

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photos by Steve Clause

Dr. Jack D. Lamont, California State Veterinarian caught in conversation.



Studying the problem, at far right is Dr. John Orsborne, Director of California Dept. of Food and Agriculture Vet. Services Lab. Next to him is AFA representative Lee Horton, and Gene Hall representing commercial dealers tucked in the center.



Frank Miser, center, representing commercial dealers, finds a light moment during a heavy meeting.

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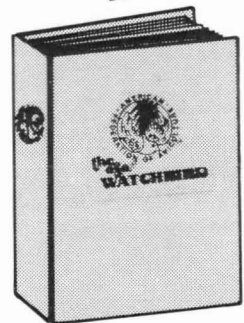


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