

## **Animal Forensics Standing Committee Workshop**

There were approximately 80-100 attendees at the animal forensic genetics workshop on Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

The forensic workshop was conducted in two sessions chaired by Dr Sree Kanthaswamy (SK). The first was a lecture session which began at 1.30 pm with a greeting by the chair. The first lecture presentation was by Dr Rob Ogden (LGC Forensics, and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK), entitled "From gangland murder to the wildlife trade - forensic DNA identification of individual animals". The second presentation was by E. Socratouse (East Midlands Forensic Pathology Unit, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK), entitled "Forensic DNA analysis of Cumbria's *Cervus elaphus* population". General discussion followed these presentations.

The second session of the workshop included a formal business meeting with the following agenda:

### **Agenda - 2010**

1. Update about developments in Animal Forensic Genetics
2. Other Business
3. Election of new committee

Committee members who were present: Sree Kanthaswamy, Wim van Haeringen and Ms Beth Wictum. Steve Fain, Paolo Garafano, Joy Halverson, Mikko Koskinen, Ross McEwing and Leanne van De Goor were not in attendance.

#### **1. Update about developments in Animal Forensic Genetics**

Participants were invited to bring relevant publications to the attention of workshop attendees. The following papers are either in press or have been accepted for publication: Leslie Lyons-Cat mitochondrial database (Forensic Science International Genetics); Wim Van Haeringen-Nomenclature for horse, dog and cattle (Animal Genetics and Journal of Legal Medicine); Beth Wictum-qPCR for deer, horse, cattle and cat (Journal of Forensic Sciences); SK – Forensic genetic databases for cat, cattle and dog population genetics have been posted on the NIST website (<http://www.cstl.nist.gov/strbase/>) for forensic use. Further submissions of databases were encouraged. Along with the motions that were moved during the Amsterdam meeting, including forensic and non-forensic testing, proficiency testing, standard

databases and accreditation, participants were also advised to use Budowle et al. (2005) for minimum guidelines for laboratories conducting animal forensic DNA analysis.

## 2. Other Business

Discussion involving the use of and criteria for SNP analysis in animal forensic casework ensued. Many people thought that SNPs would be impractical because of the size of present databases and the difficult process of converting those databases. It was noted that these same arguments were presented when conversion from blood typing to microsatellites was being considered.

## 3. Election of new committee members

The Chair proposed a smaller committee. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that members should be selected from those present at the conference. Wim van Haeringen did not want to continue as a committee member. SK (Department of Environmental Toxicology, UC Davis, USA), Leanne Van de Goor (Van Haeringen Laboratorium B.V. (VHL) Netherlands) and Beth Wictum (Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL), Forensics Unit, UC Davis, USA) remained on the committee, and additional members nominations were solicited. Romy Morrin O'Donnell (Weatherby's Ireland), Sean Corley (Animal Genetics Laboratory, University of Queensland, Australia), Corinne Cherbonnel (Genindexe, France), Guillermo Giovambattista (Instituto de Genética Veterinaria (IGEDET), CCT La Plata/Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) - Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, UNLP, Argentina) were nominated. The 2010 Forensic Standing Committee members will elect a chair on a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.