



## Animal and Pet Food Safety Professional Development Group

Established in 2022, the Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG is one of the newest additions to the IAFP's PDG portfolio, now standing at an impressive 31 PDGs. The mission of our PDG is to exchange information and promote collaboration on research, development, and regulation to safeguard global supply of animal food, which includes pet food, animal feed, and raw materials and ingredients. Our membership has been growing steadily and spans all three sectors, academia, government, and industry, with a current member count of 105.

At the IAFP 2022 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, we held a well-attended PDG meeting where members enjoyed two technical presentations, one on pet food safety and the other on animal feed safety, with speakers from industry and academia. We also provided timely regulatory updates on FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine Final GFI (Guidance for Industry) #245: Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals, published in July 2022. Members enthusiastically discussed symposium/roundtable/workshop ideas for IAFP 2023 and future webinars with active participation from the entire group. Broad topics discussed included mycotoxin, physical hazards, hygienic design and sanitation, processing technologies, new ingredients, raw pet food safety, WGS and metagenomics. These ideas were later shared with potential organizers/speakers/co-sponsoring PDGs and further solidified into

topics for proposal submission in a follow-up virtual PDG meeting in early September. We are excited to report that three symposium proposals sponsored or co-sponsored by the PDG have made the cut for IAFP 2023 in Toronto:

- Beyond Aflatoxin: Mitigating Mycotoxin Risks in Animal Food, Feed and Pet Foods
- Deploying Genomic and Metagenomic Tools to Tackle Animal Food Safety Challenges
- When the Material Isn't Foreign: Identification and Mitigating the Risk of Inherent Physical Safety Hazards

As a fledgling new PDG, we benefited greatly from other PDGs and committees on their wealth of experience and great spirit for collaboration. We appreciate the consistent guidance from IAFP staff and the available tools provided by IAFP to facilitate efficient communication within our PDG. Based on our experience, we highly recommend using IAFP Connect as a central place to exchange information on PDG happenings. We welcome any interested professionals to join our PDG as a new member. If you would like to learn more about the PDG, please feel free to reach out.

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