



August 12th, 2018

Mr. Mark Hagen, M. Ag.
Director of Research
Rolf C Hagen Inc.
20500 Trans Canada Hwy
Baie D'Urfe, Quebec, H9X 0A2

Subject: Support letter in regards to CRA review of SR&ED at HARI

Dear Mr. Hagen and CRA review committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI) and also regarding a preliminary assessment provided by the Canada Revenue Agency.

I have visited HARI for several days in 2014, during which I also provided a seminar on avian research to a group composed of HARI staff and Canadian and American aviculturists. I also witnessed first-hand how HARI was a unique avicultural centre with a particular emphasis on feeding a 100% pelletized diet and promoting a program of early socialization of companion parrots (both aspects being extremely uncommon among aviculturists). I am of the opinion that HARI, over the past few years, has provided invaluable data on the hand-rearing of companion parrots, nutrition on chicks and adult parrots, and early socialization of parrots. HARI has provided many educational magazines, contributions to lay journals, electronic materials (all available on hari.ca/avian-care/), and HARI staff have regularly shared educational information at avicultural conferences in Canada and around the world. It is also my understanding that HARI regularly tests newer formula of the Hagen Tropicana line of food on its growing and adult parrots. It is the only parrot food company, to the best of my knowledge, which performs quality control assessment of pelletized food on live parrots, which also explains why Tropicana is one of the only parrot pelletized diet not to have had major recalls in the past few years. HARI has also been an extremely active contributor to the world of psittacine aviculture with national and international recognition and has been able to provide a high quality dietary product thanks to its R&D and quality control being performed, in parts, at HARI.

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Regarding my collaboration with HARI, I can state that I have met with Mark Hagen in person several times and discussed the research being performed on parrots at the University of Guelph. Regarding our latest project on clinical lipidomics in Quaker parrots, HARI has provided the University with 12 Quaker parrots and unlimited supply of food to support the maintenance of our research parrot colony. HARI has also supported our research efforts with monetary and in-kind donations. As our project is related to nutrition, HARI has pledged to manufacture experimental diets for us with increased cholesterol content. Since the Hagen Tropicana diet being formulated and tested on HARI's birds is of known nutritional content and has been used for many years in Quaker parrots, we have been able to use this diet as our baseline diet. Since HARI is maintaining different parrot species with varying susceptibilities to lipid disorders, but all consistently on the same diet, HARI's colony of birds represent a unique opportunity for us to study the mechanism of species predisposition to these disorders controlling for diet, sex, and age. HARI has agreed that we could sample various birds from different species at the centre in the future, which may in turn help HARI adapt its formulation to particular species as it related to fat composition. The reasons behind the extreme susceptibility of some parrot species (e.g. Quaker parrots, Amazon parrots) to fat-related disorders compared to some other species (e.g. Macaws) are currently unknown.

Finally, we benefited from HARI extensive experience in the maintenance of parrot colonies and nutrition to improve the overall captive conditions and environmental enrichment of our parrot research colony at the University of Guelph.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mark Hagen and HARI for their support of psittacine research and education being performed at the University of Guelph. I am looking forward to further collaborations with HARI in help of our research and education mission in Ontario.

Sincerely,



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