

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**Between the**  
**PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**and the**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE**  
**to**  
**COLLABORATE ON RESEARCH IMPACTING SOCIO-**  
**ECONOMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISEASE RISK IN WILDLIFE**  
**TRADE NETWORKS**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), hereinafter referred to as the "university" or by their name or initials:

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA)

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation and collaboration between the UTIA and the PIJAC, to collaborate on mutually beneficial research initiatives with respect to pathogen prevalence and movements in trade, pathogen amplification, trade economics, and spillover to natural systems. This collaborative effort will focus primarily on reptile and amphibians cared for as companion animals in the home and in classrooms, and the need to fill certain research information gaps to inform efforts to help prevent the introduction and/or spread of pathogens, such as *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) fungus or other invasive pathogens, harmful to companion animals on their journey from birth to best friend and beyond. A secondary intent is to unify public and private organizations around the issue of invasive pathogens and environmental stewardship to encourage further collaboration on the impacts of invasive pathogens on the public and the environment.

**II. THE PARTIES**

1. Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

The PIJAC is a non-profit, service-oriented organization comprised of members from every segment of the pet industry. These include importers and exporters of live organisms, retail pet stores, product manufacturers, other industry trade associations in the United States and other countries, as well as hobby clubs and aquarium societies. PIJAC, a non-profit corporation organized pursuant to the laws of the District of Columbia, enters this MOU pursuant to the approval of its Board of Directors.

2. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

The UTIA is at the core of the University of Tennessee's land-grant mission of educating,

discovering, and connecting through the work of faculty, staff and students. The institute's four units—the Herbert College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, UT Ag Research, and UT Extension—contribute to improving the quality of life and enhancing the agricultural economics, environment, and health of Tennesseans and beyond.

(<https://utia.tennessee.edu/leadership/>).

UTIA will excel as an Institute by developing solutions and services that advance agriculture, education, natural resource management, human and animal health, and our communities.

(<https://utia.tennessee.edu/our-institute/>)

To accomplish this vision, UTIA will:

- Connect across strengths within UTIA and with partners.
- Focus on grand challenges and established priorities.
- Help people and communities adapt to an ever-changing world.

### **III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS**

1. The UTIA is responsible for developing solutions and services that advance agriculture, education, natural resource management, human and animal health, and our communities.
2. The PIJAC is the pet industry national trade association responsible for promoting responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, fostering environmental stewardship, and ensuring the availability of pets.

### **V. PRINCIPLES**

To provide for consistent and effective communications among the MOU participants, the PIJAC and the UTIA shall each appoint a representative (see Section VII) to complete assigned tasks, and to discuss and consider activities as appropriate that may be pursued under this MOU. The representatives shall participate in scheduled meetings and conference calls to identify goals, objectives, and coordinate activities.

### **VI. TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY LAW, THE PIJAC AND THE UNIVERSITY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. UTIA agrees to the following:
  - a. Coordinate with the PIJAC to identify opportunities to increase the understanding of pathogen movements in trade and potential impacts to industry, consumers and the environment in the United States.
  - b. Acknowledge the PIJAC in a manner agreed to by the signatories in all advertising and promotional material jointly produced, published, broadcast, displayed, or exhibited by PIJAC and UTIA under the terms of this agreement.

- c. Allow the PIJAC to use the UTIA brand name, identity graphics, and logos, as mutually agreed upon during the term of this agreement.
- d. Obtain prior approval of the PIJAC for all statements, press releases, advertising, and other promotional material intended for the public that refer to this agreement or to the PIJAC or the name or title of any PIJAC employee in connection with this agreement.
- e. Use the PIJAC brand name, identity graphics, and logos, as mutually agreed upon during the term of this agreement, and in good faith and in such manner in association with or in relation to any activity under this agreement so as to enhance and promote the goodwill and reputation of the PIJAC.

2. PIJAC agrees to:


- a. Coordinate with UTIA on activities to increase the understanding of pathogen movements in trade and potential impacts to industry, consumers, and the environment in the United States.
- b. Coordinate with the UTIA to identify opportunities for further collaboration on issues related to pathogen prevalence and movements in trade.
- c. Acknowledge the UTIA in a manner agreed to by the signatories in all advertising and promotional material jointly produced, published, broadcast, displayed, or exhibited by PIJAC and UTIA under the terms of this agreement.
- d. Allow the UTIA to use the PIJAC brand name, identity graphics, and logos, as mutually agreed upon during the term of this agreement.
- e. Obtain prior approval of the UTIA of all statements, press releases, advertising, and other promotional material intended for the public that refer to this agreement or to the UTIA or the name or title of any UTIA employee in connection with this agreement.
- f. Use the UTIA brand name, identity graphics, and logos, as mutually agreed upon during the term of this agreement, and in good faith and in such manner in association with or in relation to any activity under this agreement so as to enhance and promote the goodwill and reputation of the UTIA.

## VII. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The principal contact for the PIJAC concerning this MOU is:

Joshua Jones  
Deputy Director, Government Affairs  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council  
1615 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
202-452-1525 x1040  
[josh@pijac.org](mailto:josh@pijac.org)  
<https://www.PIJAC.org>

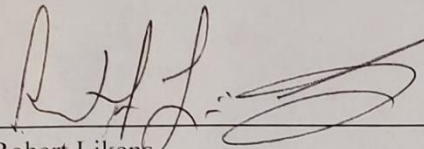
The principal contact for the UTIA is:

Matthew J. Gray, Ph.D., Professor   
Associate Director, UTIA Center for Wildlife Health  
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture  
427 Plant Biotechnology Building  
2505 E.J. Chapman Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
865-974-2740  
[mgray11@utk.edu](mailto:mgray11@utk.edu)  
<https://utia.tennessee.edu/>

## VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

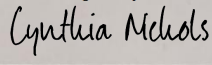
1. The parties will handle their own activities and use their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives enumerated in this MOU. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.
2. In implementing this MOU, each entity will be operating under its own state's laws, regulations, and policies, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.
3. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties require execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Negotiation, execution, and administration of these agreements must comply with all applicable state law.
4. Other than the support of the principles in this MOU, nothing in this MOU constitutes or shall be interpreted to imply an endorsement by either party of any product, service, or opinion.
5. This MOU in no way restricts the UTIA or PIJAC from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
6. This MOU takes effect on the date it is fully executed and will expire five (5) years from its effective date. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written agreement of the UTIA and PIJAC. Either the UTIA or the PIJAC may terminate this MOU after 60 days written notice.

**IX. AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES**

  
Robert Likens  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

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Date

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DocuSigned by:  
  
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3/15/2021  
Date

Cynthia Nichols  
Budget Director, AgResearch  
The University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture

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