

Animal Ethics & the Evolution of Standards for Laying Hens in the United States

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U.S. Farm Animal Welfare Regulatory Environment

- Animal Welfare Act (revised 1986)
 - Excludes farm animals
- Non-governmental Standards
 - Retailers
 - Animal Protection NGOs
 - Animal Commodity Organizations
 - United Egg Producers

U.E.P

United Egg Producers
-trade organization
-- member services
-- lobbying

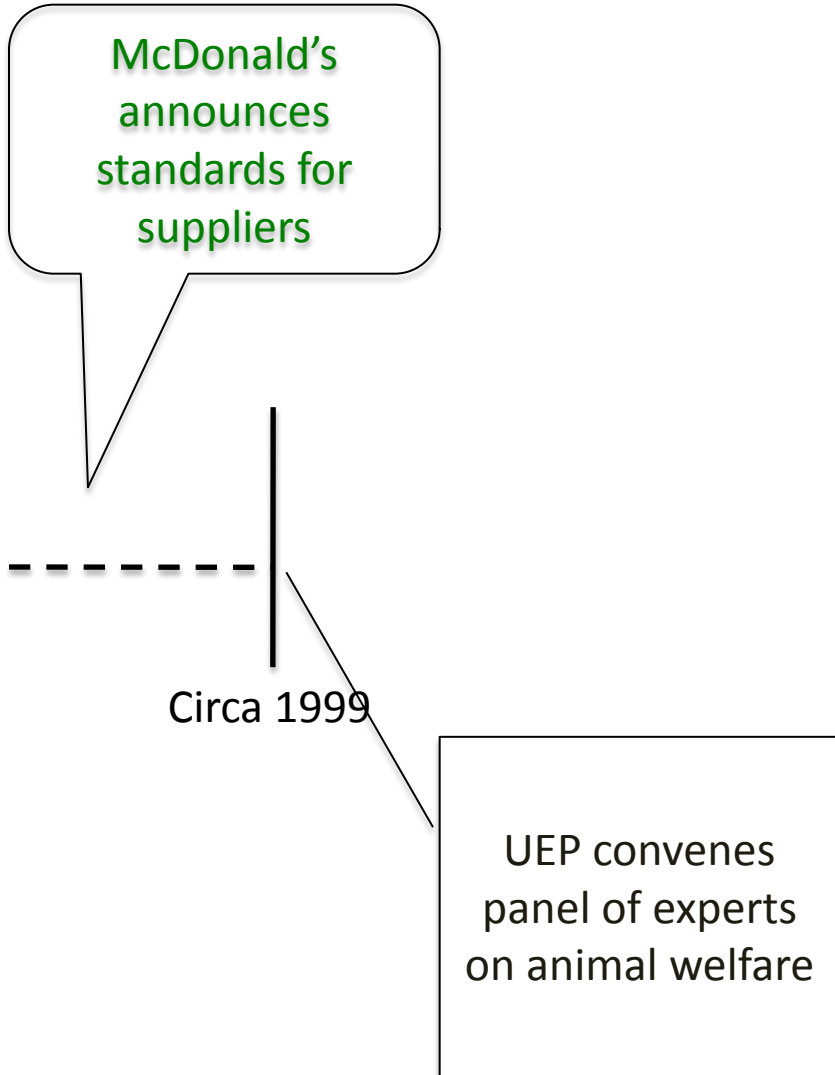
The Egg Board

- QuANGO supervising USDA
check-off funds
-- advertising
-- research
-- liason with USDA

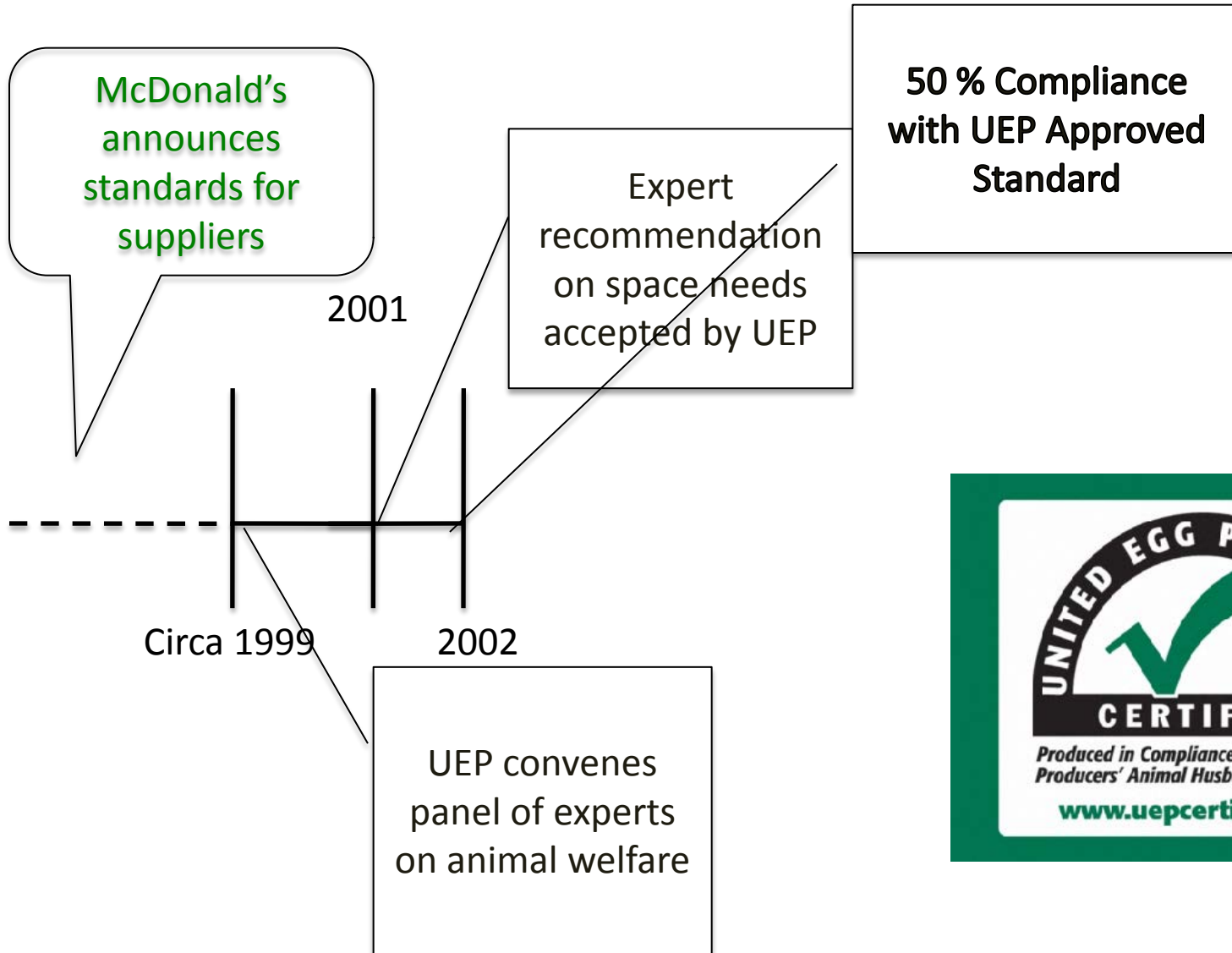
Current Scientific Advisory Committee
Members:

- Dr. Patricia Y. Hester, PhD (Chairwoman) -
Purdue University
- Bill Chase, DVM -Kestrel: Inc. -Private
Veterinarian
- Gail Golab, DVM -American Veterinary
Medical Association
- Joy Mench, PhD -University of California
Davis
- Ruth Newberry, PhD -Washington State
University
- Janice Swanson, PhD -Michigan State
University
- Paul Thompson, PhD -Michigan State
University
- Dr. Jeffrey D. Armstrong, PhD (Consultant)
California Polytechnic State University

UEP Standards



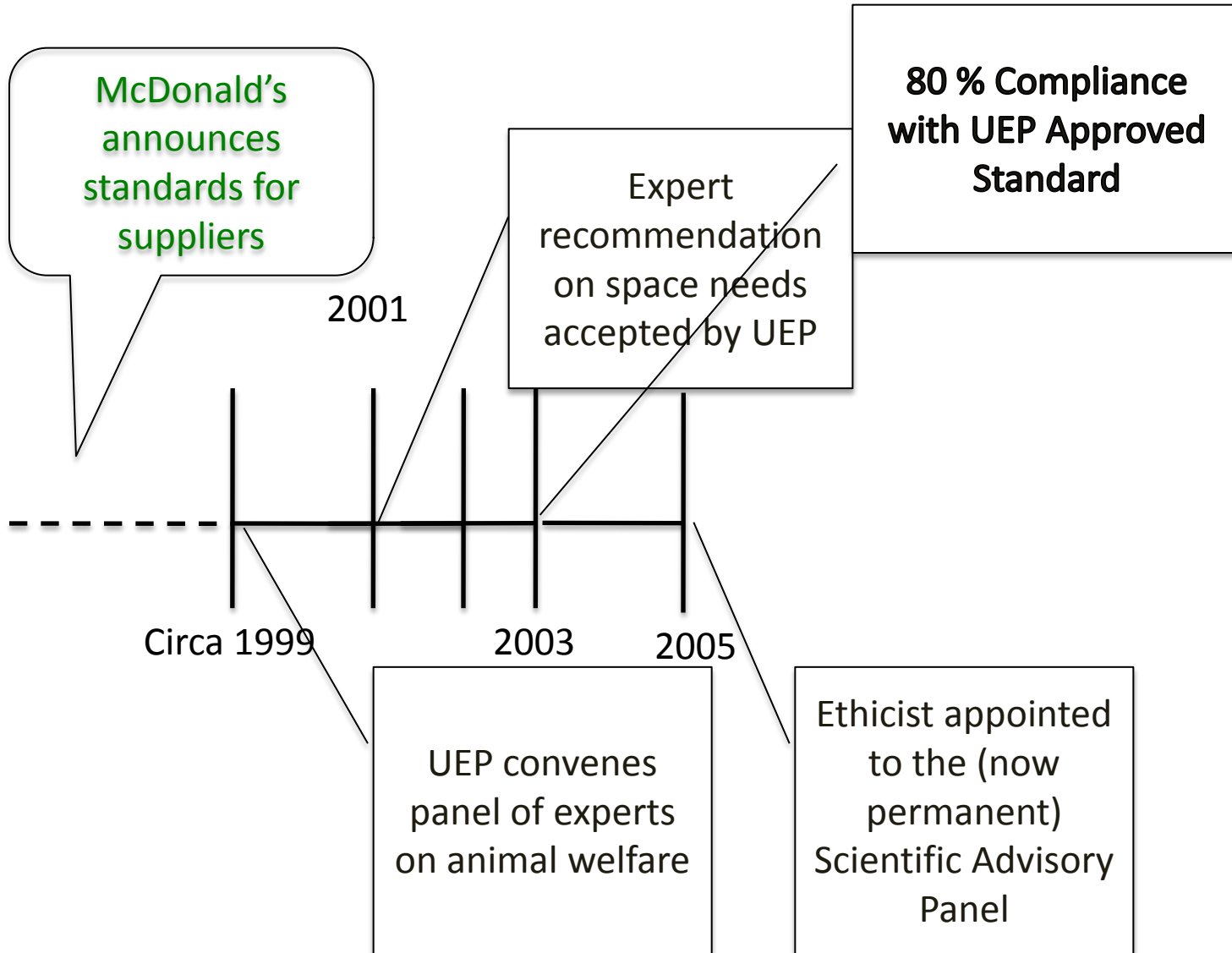
UEP Standards



- 68 -72 sq. in. per hen in caged layer systems
 - average industry space allotment before UEP Standard: 48 sq. in.
 - new standard reflects point at which improved welfare is unambiguous
- must be met by all facilities at a given location
- certified by USDA and by contracted 3rd party firms (accredited by USDA)



UEP Standards



How the Process Works



How the Process Works



- SAC does not offer spontaneous advise or recommendations
- Thus far, all recommendations have been adopted by the producer committee without modifications
- Committee makes few public statements. When it does so, it takes the form of a letter from the Committee, and requires full agreement of all members.

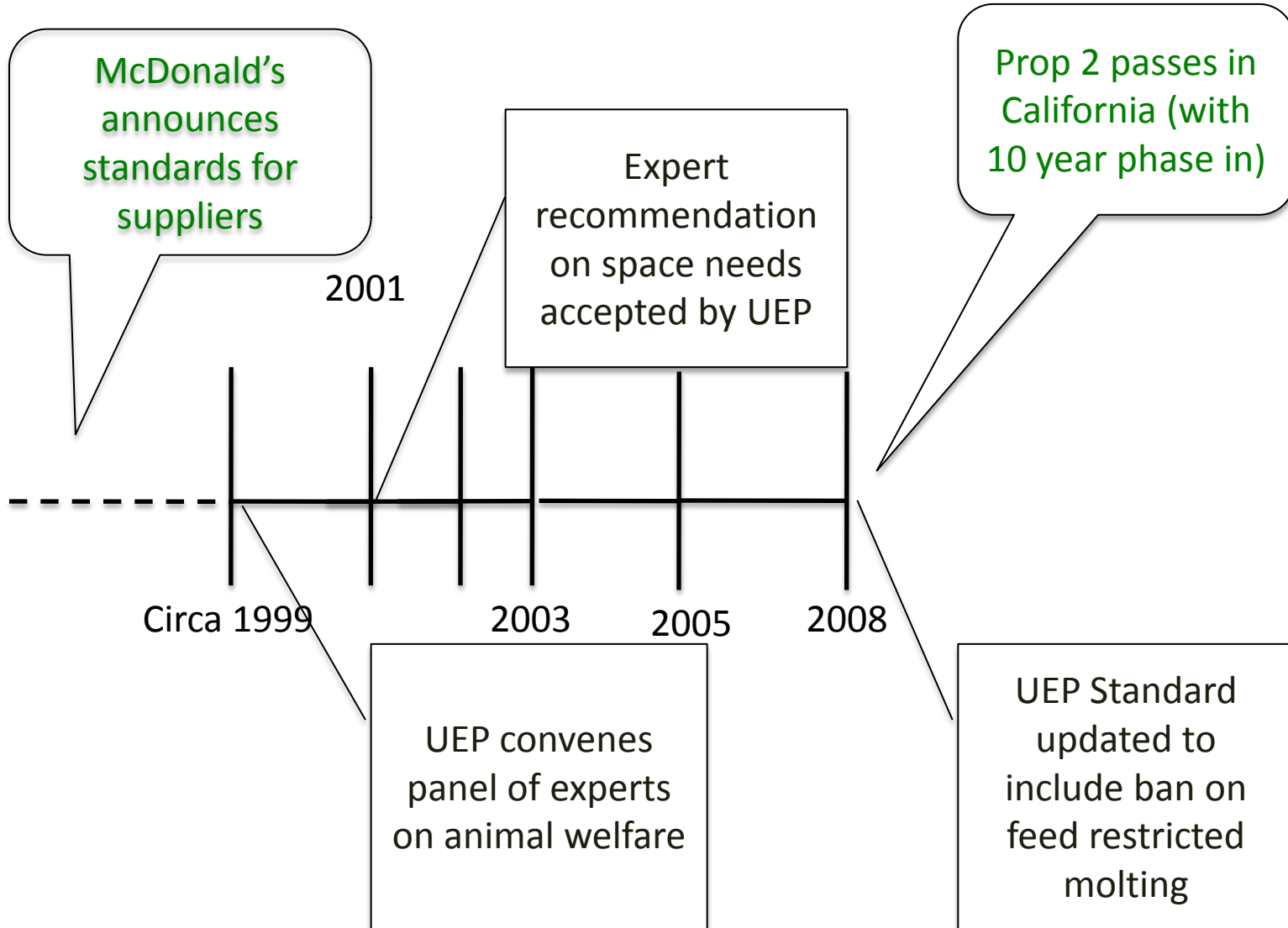
How the Process Works

The
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REASONS TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS

1. Rapid improvement for large numbers of animals
2. Important to work *with* producer groups
3. Cost considerations are legitimate

UEP Standards



California Proposition 2

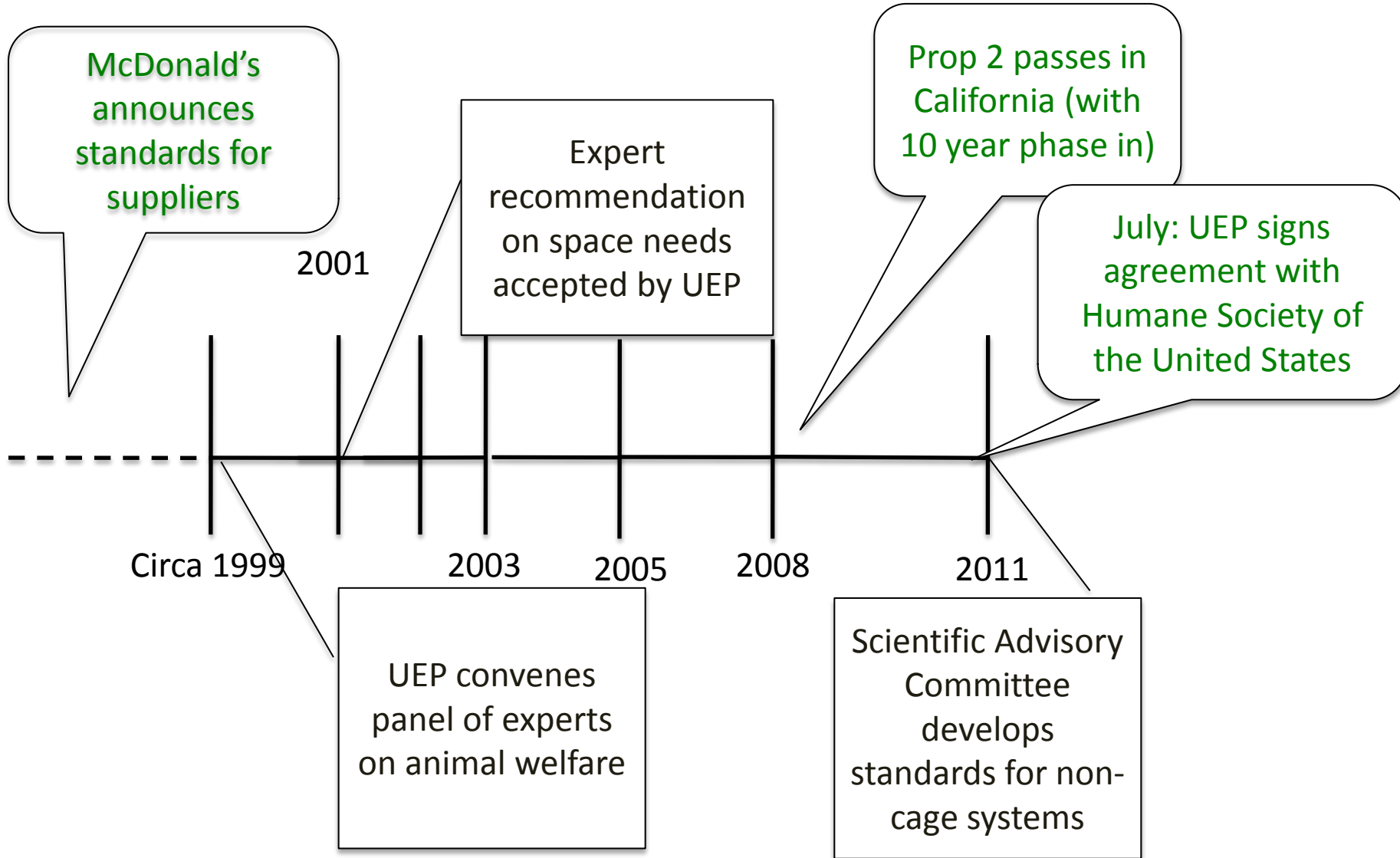
-- animals must be housed with sufficient space to turn around and fully extend their limbs without touching another individual

-- will not come into force for 10 years

-- final interpretation will be both debated and very likely litigated

-- similar pieces of legislation have been enacted in Michigan, Florida and Ohio, proposed in Oregon

UEP Standards



UEP/HSUS Agreement

- Industry will transition to “colony” housing within 13 years
 - N.B. this is the enriched cage, but the agreement does not mention the word “cage”

UEP/HSUS Agreement

- Industry will transition to “colony” housing within 13 years
- UEP and HSUS will jointly seek Federal legislation to mandate this transition
 - Federal legislation will override state regulations such as Prop. 2

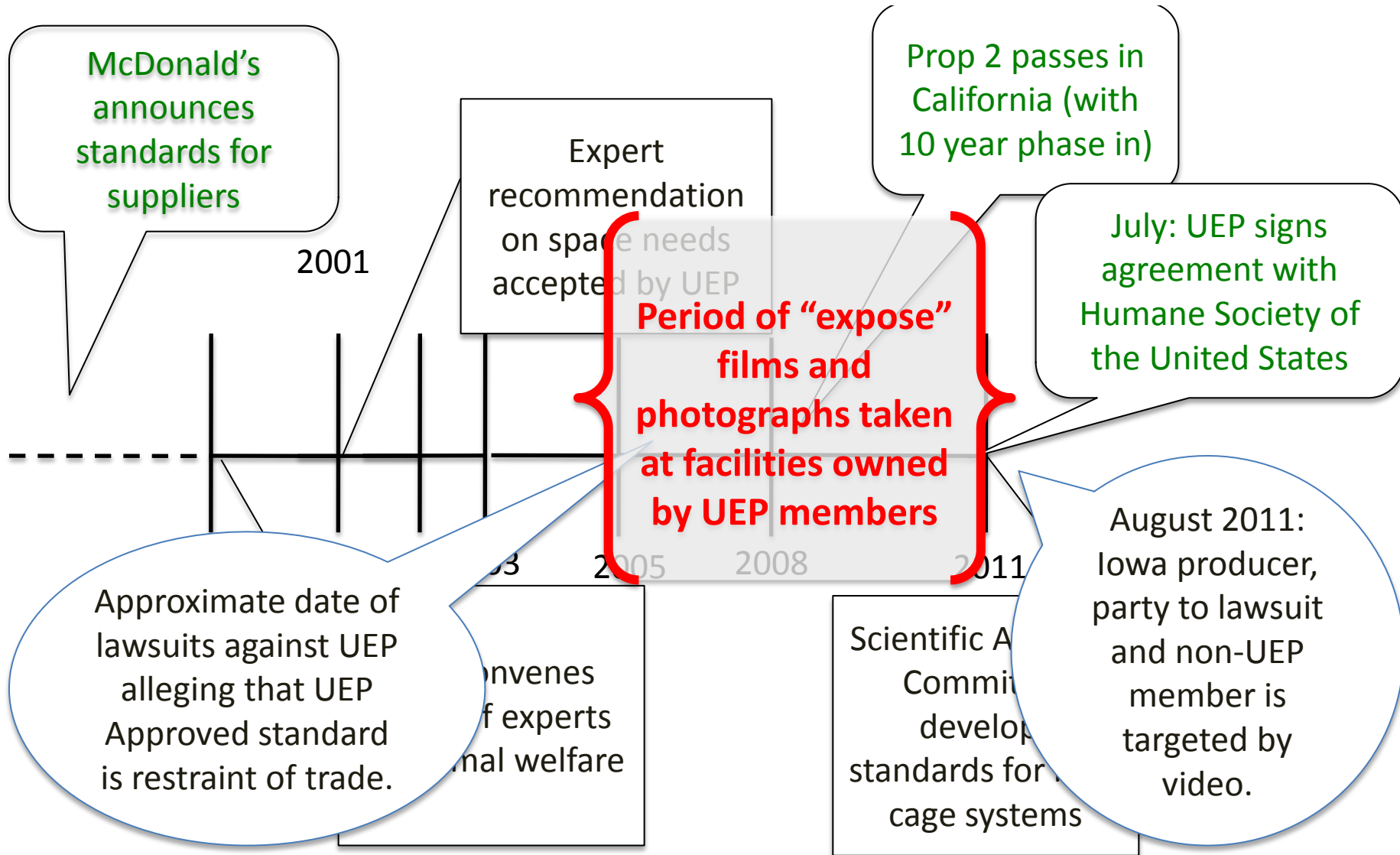
UEP/HSUS Agreement

- Industry will transition to “colony” housing within 13 years
- UEP and HSUS will jointly seek Federal legislation to mandate this transition
- HSUS will not challenge UEP or members through ballot initiatives or litigation
 - Time limited: legislation must pass soon

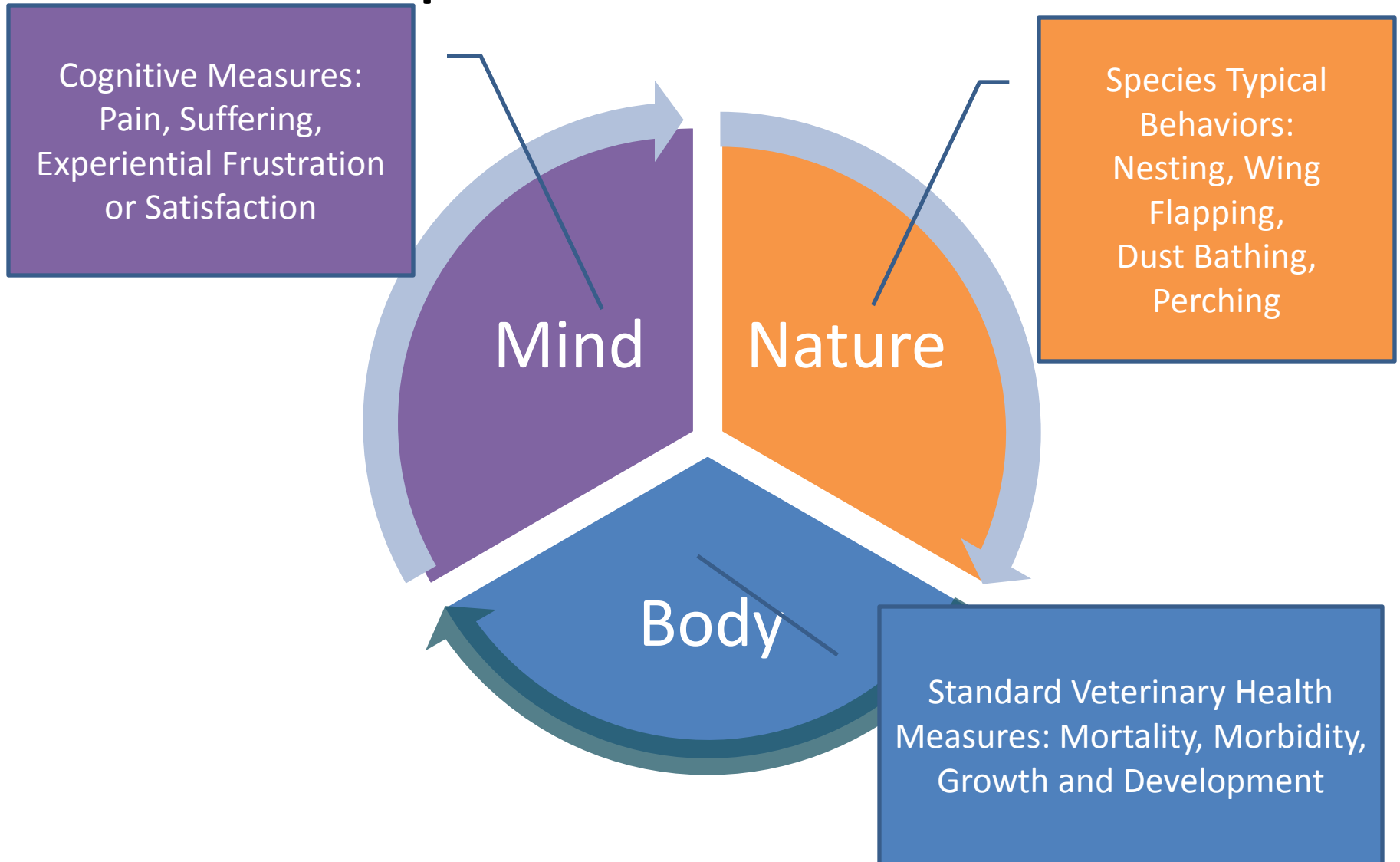
UEP/HSUS Agreement

- Industry will transition to “colony” housing within 13 years
- UEP and HSUS will jointly seek Federal legislation to mandate this transition
- HSUS will not challenge UEP or members through ballot initiatives or litigation
- Current Status: Legislation has been introduced, is being strongly opposed by other food animal producers

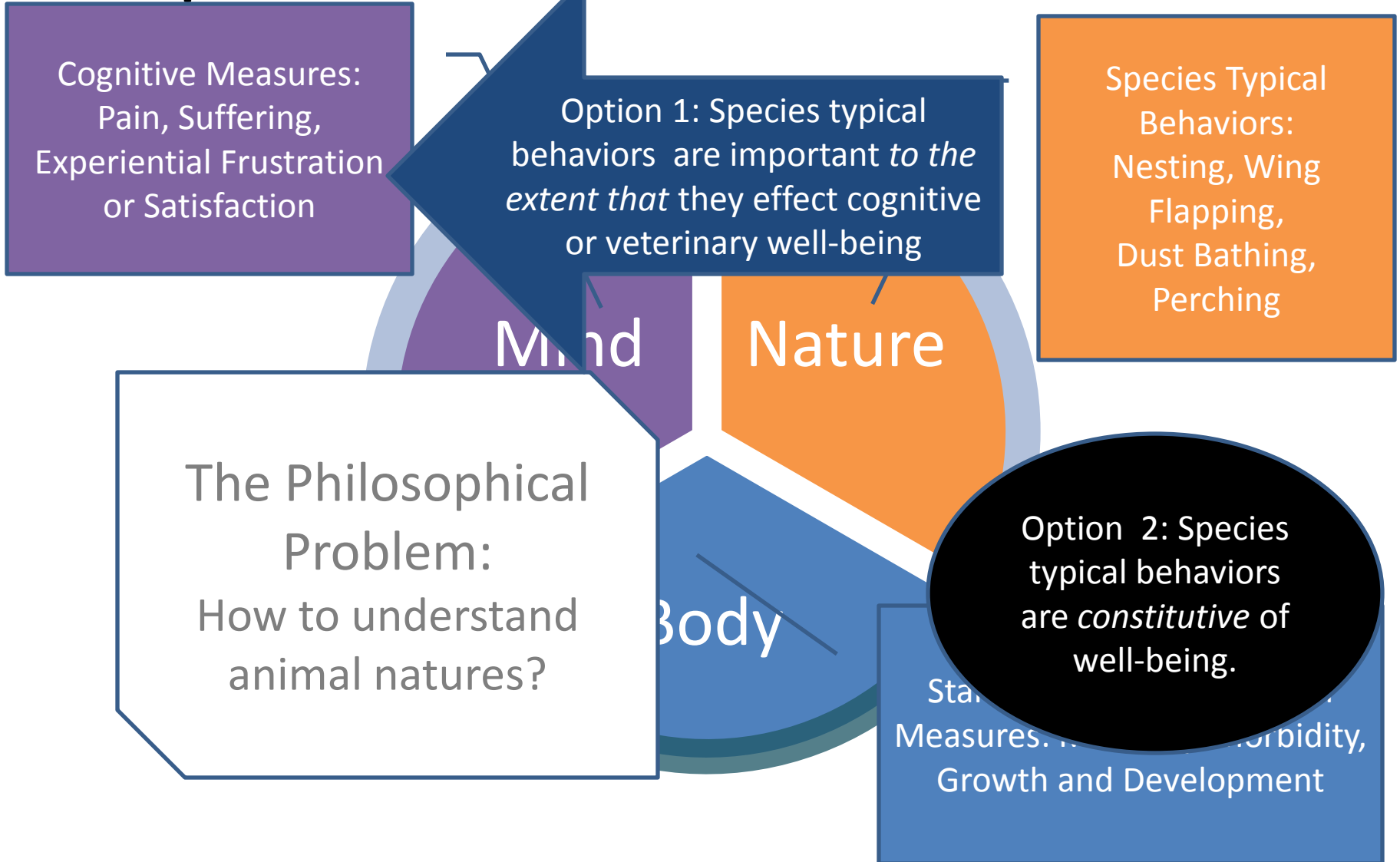
A Side Story



Expert Animal Ethics



Expert Animal Ethics Gets Wicked

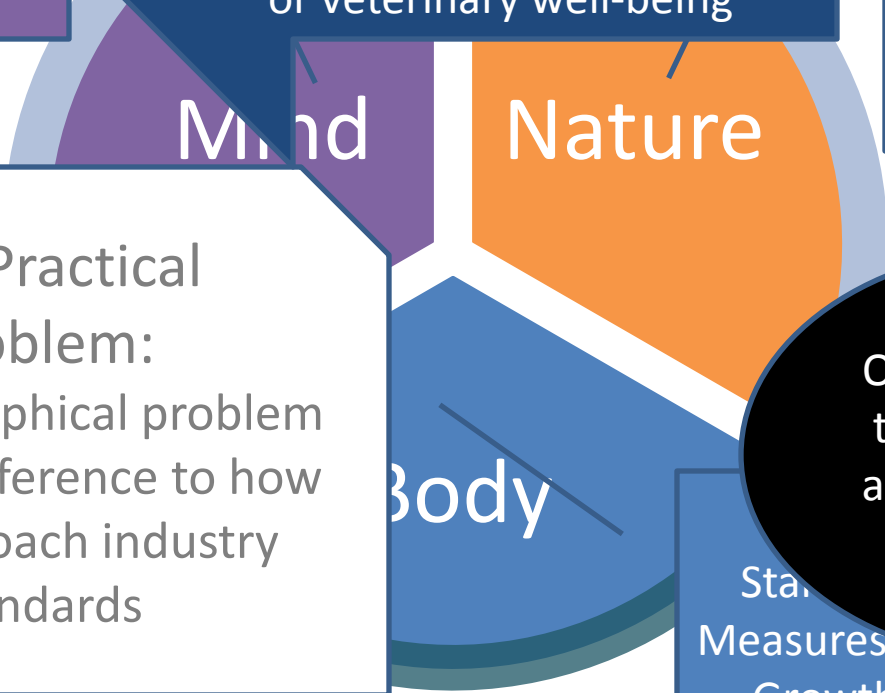


Expert Animal Ethics Gets Wicked in the Real World

Cognitive Measures:
Pain, Suffering,
Experiential Frustration
or Satisfaction

Option 1: Species typical behaviors are important *to the extent that* they effect cognitive or veterinary well-being

Species Typical Behaviors:
Nesting, Wing Flapping,
Dust Bathing,
Perching

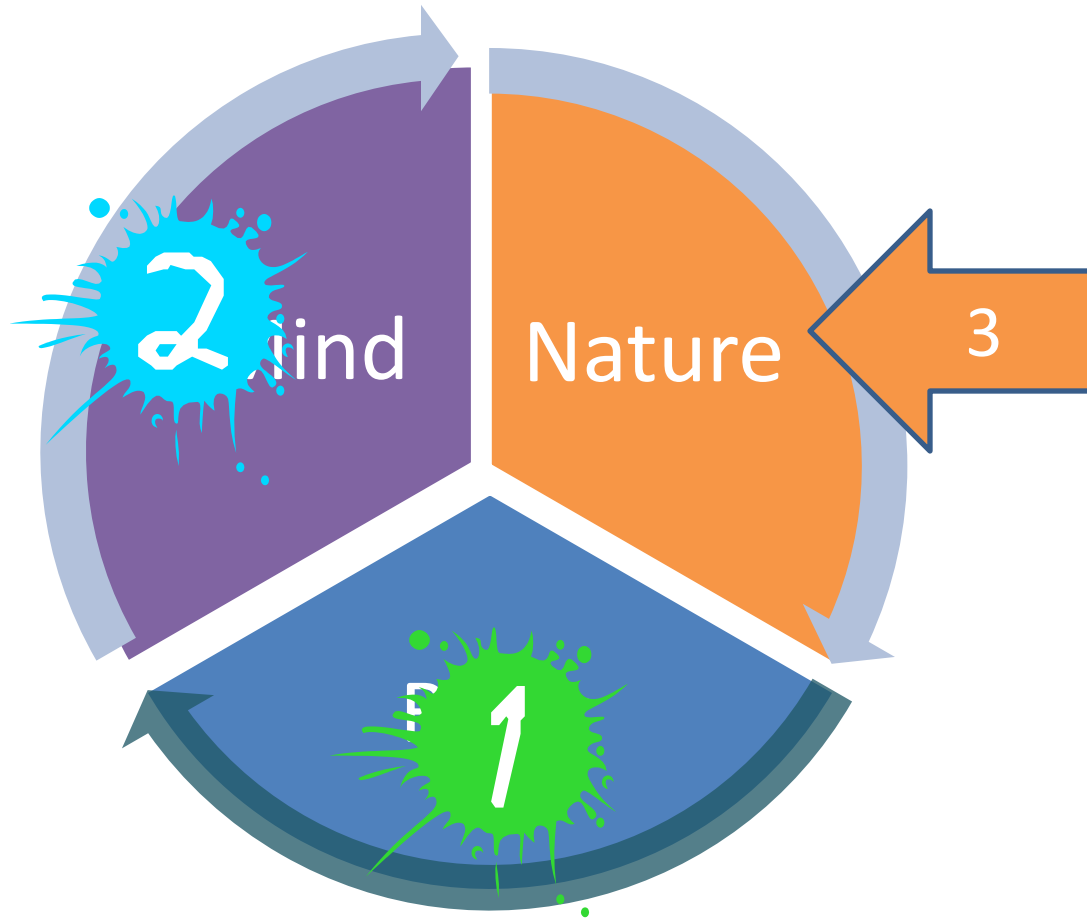


The Practical Problem:
The philosophical problem makes a difference to how you approach industry standards

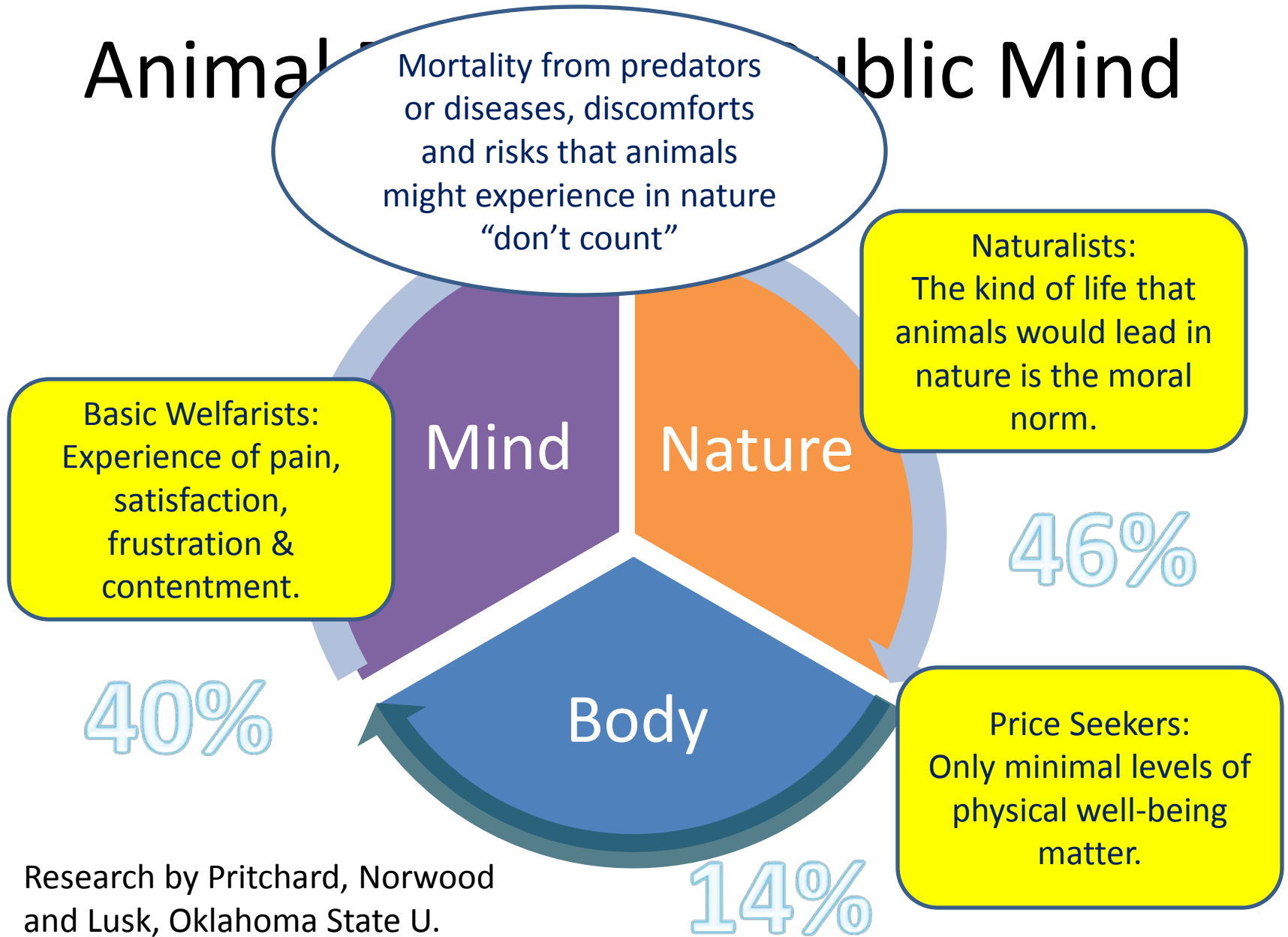
Option 2: Species typical behaviors are *constitutive of* well-being.

Standard Measures: Mortality, Morbidity, Growth and Development

Wicked Animal Ethics



Animal Welfare and Public Mind



Research by Pritchard, Norwood and Lusk, Oklahoma State U.

What Does an Ethicist Do in a Scientific Committee?

Keeps the conversation going within the committee.

Process Works

Something New
in Animal Ethics

CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS

The
label

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