

out in front.

American Association of Equine Practitioners  
2009 annual report



## Dear AAEP Members:

It is my pleasure to present the 2009 Annual Report to my fellow members and colleagues. This past year, our association grew stronger and expanded the scope and depth of its services to our members, the equine industry and the horse. While history may remember the worldwide economic challenges of 2009, the AAEP finished the year in sound fiscal health with a growing membership. Dr. Larry Bramlage's 2004 observation about the AAEP still rings true: "Some organizations exist for the benefit of the organization's existence; the AAEP truly exists for the benefit of the health and welfare of the horse."

In 2008, under President Eleanor Green's strong leadership, the AAEP board of directors and executive committee produced a three-year strategic plan to address the growth of the equine veterinary profession, the quality of equine veterinary continuing education and equine welfare. In 2009, we were able to build on these initiatives.



from the president  
harry w. werner

In an effort to expand the profession, AAEP leaders traveled to veterinary schools to interface directly with students, reviewing the unique rewards of equine practice and the essential role AAEP membership plays in building and sustaining their careers. AAEP-member experts conducted student education sessions on equine dentistry and basic farriery at veterinary schools throughout the year.

Aiming at a second priority in the strategic plan, we increased and improved the format of AAEP continuing education opportunities and introduced a new protocol to upgrade the abstract selection process. Led by Dr. Nat White and our Educational Programs Committee, these efforts

enhance the association's role as the leader in providing high quality continuing education to the equine veterinary profession. The record attendance at December's Convention attests to the success of such efforts.

In 2008, a group of members gathered informally at the AAEP Convention to share their concerns regarding the plight of the horses, mules and donkeys in less developed regions of the world. In 2009, they organized a very well-attended in-depth presentation for the Las Vegas Convention and coined a new word – equitarian – to give meaning to this important area of concern. In September 2010, the AAEP and the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) will jointly host a fact-finding and planning meeting on the global status of working equids. Attendees will include representatives of organizations already involved in providing help to these underserved areas.

The AAEP Foundation grew significantly stronger financially and is now exploring new avenues of outreach that are consistent with its mission. The AAEP's attention to public policy issues also remains an important and unwavering responsibility. We continue to closely monitor and participate in initiatives affecting the equine industry.

The backbone and ultimate strength of the AAEP continues to be our members who selflessly volunteer their time and remarkable talents – often behind the scenes. Each year, when you say "yes" to a request to volunteer – despite your busy practice, personal and professional lives – all of us in the AAEP are enriched. Your stamp is clearly on the organization's many achievements. You can download a volunteer interest form at [www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org).

Leading your association as the 2009 president has been an honor and the highlight of my professional career. It was with the greatest confidence and optimism that I passed the baton to Dr. Nat White and our 2010 Executive Committee and board of directors.

See you at the AAEP meetings!

Harry W. Werner, VMD  
2009 President

## mission

To improve the health and welfare of the horse, to further the professional development of its members, and to provide resources and leadership for the benefit of the equine industry.

# membership

The AAEP's membership (as of March 9, 2010) is comprised of 7,988 veterinarians and 1,892 veterinary students. This includes members in the U.S., Canada and 59 countries worldwide. The following is a snapshot of the AAEP's diverse membership:

### Current Position

Practice Owner- Sole Proprietor:	42.5%
Associate:	20.9%
Practice Owner-Partnership:	17.2%
Educator/Academic:	6.3%
Retired:	3%
Other:	2.7%
Resident/Graduate Student:	2%
Government/ Regulatory Official:	1.9%
Industry Relations:	1.3%
Temporary Position:	0.01%

### Percentage of Practice Devoted to Horses

100%:	45.7%
75-99%:	22.7%
50-74%:	8.8%
25-49%:	10.3%
1-24%:	12.5%

### Types of Equine Practice

Performance:	31.9%
Pleasure/Farm:	29.5%
Reproduction:	12.9%
Racing:	14.5%
Other:	8.2%
Work/Ranch:	3%

### Gender

Male:	57%
Female:	43%

### Top 3 Membership Countries (outside of North America)

Australia  
Germany  
Japan

### Top 3 Membership States (U.S.)

California  
Texas  
Florida

# highlights09

## Successful fall meeting and record-breaking Convention highlight expanded CE in 2009

An important goal of the AAEP's strategic plan is to maintain its position as the leading provider of continuing education and professional development for equine veterinarians. A new three-year plan for growing AAEP CE programs took flight in 2009 with the addition of a second Focus meeting. Focus on Ophthalmology, held Oct. 1-3 in Raleigh, N.C., was a sold-out success with its expert instructors and hands-on wet lab. In addition, the AAEP's 55th Annual Convention in dazzling Las Vegas, Nev., lured a record-breaking crowd of 7,611 equine veterinarians, students, veterinary technicians and exhibitors.

### 2009 highlights a look back

#### Mark your calendars for these 2010 events

**Focus on Upper and Lower Respiratory Disease**  
July 18-20, 2010  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**360° Meetings on Dentistry and Stallion Reproduction**  
Aug. 10-13, 2010  
College Station, Texas

**Sport Horse Symposium**  
Sept. 22-24, 2010  
Lexington, Ky.

**Business Education Workshop II**  
Nov. 5-6, 2010  
Indianapolis, Ind.

**56th Annual Convention**  
Dec. 4-8, 2010  
Baltimore, Md.

## On Call program honored for contributions to the sport of horseracing

The On Call program received one of the Thoroughbred industry's most prestigious honors, the Special Eclipse Award. The Special Eclipse recognizes outstanding contributions to the sport of Thoroughbred racing, and On Call veterinarians were honored for providing accurate and timely information to the media about health issues affecting our equine athletes. The AAEP's On Call veterinarians are prepared to provide expertise at equine competitions across the country in 2010.



## Racing Committee provides guidance on racehorse safety

The AAEP's newly formed Racing Committee, chaired by Dr. Scott Palmer, released guidelines for protecting the health of the Thoroughbred racehorse. The white paper, "Putting the Horse First: Veterinary Recommendations for the Safety and Welfare of the Thoroughbred Racehorse," provides veterinary guidance on many issues challenging the racing industry and the care of the racehorse. Recommendations within the white paper are focused in four key areas: the racing business model, the veterinarian-owner-trainer relationship, medication and the public perception of racing. Additionally, changes to the structure of claiming races and medication usage in horses intended for sale at public auction are addressed in the document. The committee also developed recommendations specific to Quarter horse racing. To view the white papers, visit [www.aep.org](http://www.aep.org).

### John Mitchell named 2010 VP

John Mitchell, DVM, a racetrack practitioner in Pompano Beach, Fla., was selected as the 2010 vice president. With this appointment, he will serve as president in 2012.

Dr. Mitchell's practice focuses on performance exams, diagnostic procedures and the economic investments of clients. He was the owner of Equine Associates in Boca Raton, Fla., from 1975 to 1995. An active AAEP member since 1972, Dr. Mitchell has served on the Educational Programs, Racing, Practice Management and Foundation Advisory committees. He held the office of AAEP treasurer from 2002 to 2005. He has been instrumental in the development of programs for the annual Practice Management Seminar and co-chaired the meeting in 2002.



### UHVRC program provides free vaccinations for rescue horses

The AAEP and Educational Partner Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health teamed up in 2009 to help rehabilitate, revitalize and, ultimately, find new homes for America's unwanted horses through



the Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign (UHVRC). The UHVRC aims to protect the health of unwanted horses by donating

equine vaccines to qualifying equine rescue and retirement facilities. AAEP-member veterinarians assisted rescue and retirement facilities in need of vaccinations in the application process. With the support of members, nearly 2,500 unwanted horses received free vaccinations in 2009. The UHVRC continues to support the unwanted horse in 2010 and applications for the program may be obtained at [www.uhrvc.org](http://www.uhrvc.org).



*From left, Cynthia Gutierrez, DVM, technical field service veterinarian for Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, Susanna Thomas, director of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation-Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, and Dana Kirkland, AAEP industry education and development coordinator, with Hootie, a retired Thoroughbred.*

### Radiograph guidelines promote ethical practices during public auctions

The Public Auction Task Force promoted ethical practice in the sales arena when they developed guidelines for the use of radiographic reports at public auctions. The goal of the task force is to promote ethical practices during the sales process, particularly at Thoroughbred auctions. The group has engaged sales companies, consignors and owners in an ongoing dialogue to improve the integrity of the sales process. To view the guidelines for radiographic reports, visit [www.aaep.org/purchase\\_exams.htm](http://www.aaep.org/purchase_exams.htm).



# highlights09

## Merial joins Educational Partner Program

In October, Merial became the AAEP's 11th educational partner, joining an esteemed group of corporations dedicated to providing resources and education to members. Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. The company has been active in supporting the AAEP previously through the sponsorship of key events and programs at the Annual Convention.



2009 highlights  
continued



## Foundation News

### Study reveals AAEP-member research priorities

The AAEP Foundation released results from a study assessing the opinions of AAEP members regarding priorities in equine health care research. The second study of its kind, the 2009 AAEP Membership Equine Research Study was conducted to assist the equine industry in directing its financial support of equine research projects.

Study results indicated that the equine body systems of highest research priority are musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, respiratory, endocrine and nervous system, ranked respectively. Respondents also ranked laminitis, colic, arthritis, tendon injuries and navicular disease as the five priorities in the category of equine disease or condition. Regarding new technologies that require more funding, horse-side laboratory tests, regenerative medicine and imaging were considered the most important.

### Mystery Match Challenge doubles a \$250,000 donation for Foundation

Throughout 2009, AAEP members responded to a year-long challenge to match \$250,000 donated by a generous "mystery donor." Thanks to a final push from the AAEP membership during the 55th Annual Convention, the AAEP Foundation surpassed its \$250,000 fundraising goal. Dr. C.

Wayne McIlwraith, chair of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee, identified Hiscox Foundation Co. Inc. as the mystery donor during the meeting's opening session Dec. 6.

The Foundation's efforts don't end with the Mystery Match Challenge. Help horses today by donating at [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org).



# leadership



leadership  
officers & board

*From left: Dr. John Mitchell, Dr. William Moyer, Dr. Nathaniel White, David Foley, Dr. Harry Werner and Dr. Jeffrey Berk at the 55th Annual Convention in Las Vegas.*

## 2010 Executive Committee

### President

Nathaniel A. White II, DVM

### President-Elect

William Moyer, DVM

### Vice President

John S. Mitchell, DVM

### Immediate Past President

Harry W. Werner, VMD

### Treasurer

Jeffrey T. Berk, VMD

### Executive Director

David L. Foley

## 2010 Board of Directors

### District I

Peter C. Bousum, VMD

### District II

B.A. Rucker, DVM

### District III

Scott A. Hay, DVM

### District IV

Jay D. Addison, DVM

### District V

John A. Stick, DVM

### District VI

Josie L. Traub-Dargatz, DVM

### District VII

Dickson Varner, DVM

### District VIII

W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS

### District IX

Debra C. Sellon, DVM

### District X

Roxy J. Bell, DVM, MSc, DACT

## International Board Member

Desmond P. Leadon, MVB, FRCVS

## Equine Industry Board Member

Bill Brewer

## Directors at Large

Brian S. Carroll, DVM

Carol K. Clark, DVM

Roger E. Rees, DVM

## Boards Members Whose Terms of Service Ended in 2009:

James P. Morehead, DVM

Daniel A. Wilson, DVM

Julie Wilson, DVM

David Whitaker, Ph.D.

Rustin M. Moore, DVM

# financials

## 2009 BALANCE SHEET for the period ended 12/31/09

### Current Assets

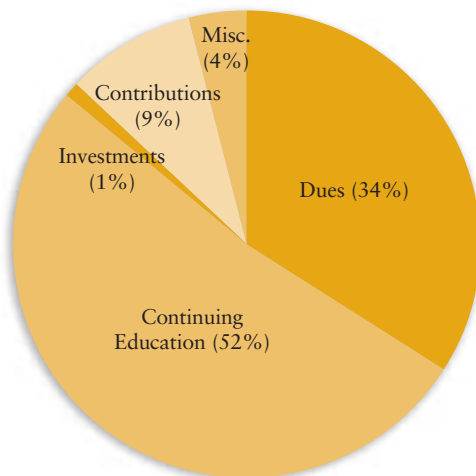
Petty Cash	300.00
Cash in Bank/Traditional	63,193.00
Savings - Traditional	2,219,679.88
Certificates of Deposit	500,000.00
AAEP Depreciation Account	226,649.13
Reserve Fund-DA Davidson	1,400,503.60
Accounts Receivable	49,098.00
Prepaid Expenses	64,472.45
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,523,896.06</b>
Property & Equipment	
Office Building	778,542.27
Furniture & Fixtures	131,811.61
Equipment	200,926.31
Total Prop. & Equipment	1,111,280.19
Accumulated Depreciation	-510,747.20
Net Property & Equipment	<b>600,532.99</b>
Other Assets	
Deposits	5,000.00
Total Other Assets	<b>5,000.00</b>
Total Assets	<b>5,129,429.05</b>

### Liabilities

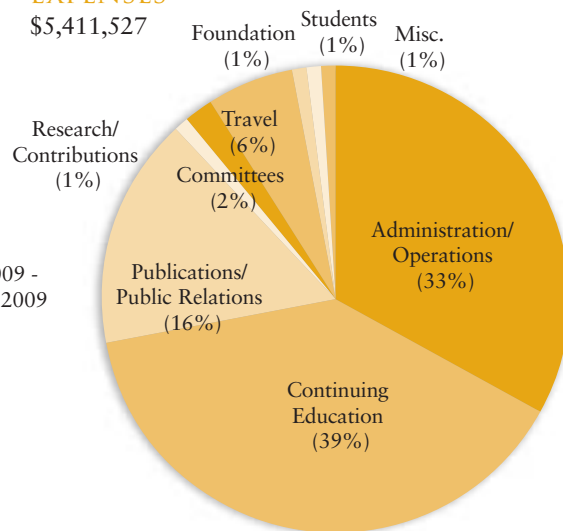
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,316,924.96
AAEP Foundation Funds	65.00
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	102.93
Deferred Dues Revenue	1,081,654.72
Deferred Sponsors	20,000.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,418,747.61</b>
Long Term Liabilities	0.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	<b>0.00</b>
Total Liabilities	<b>2,418,747.61</b>
Member Equity	
Members' Equity	2,409,933.03
Unrealized Gain or Loss	-191,268.69
Current Earnings	492,017.10
Total Equity	<b>2,710,681.44</b>
Total Liab. & Equity	<b>5,129,429.05</b>

## 2009 INCOME STATEMENT

### REVENUE \$5,903,544



### EXPENSES \$5,411,527



January 1, 2009 -  
December 31, 2009