



HARRISON COERVER & ASSOCIATES
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

EQUINE RESEARCH SUMMIT

April 19-20, 2006
Lexington, Kentucky

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & ACTION ITEMS

The American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation convened a summit of representatives from the research community, research funders, government and other stakeholders in equine research on April 19-20, 2006 in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Equine Research Summit was chaired by Nathaniel A. White II DVM MS Diplomate ACVS. A list of summit participants is attached as Exhibit A; and a list of summit sponsors is attached as Exhibit B. The summit was designed, facilitated and documented by Harrison Coerver, President, Harrison Coerver and Associates.

The following provides an Executive Summary of the recommendations advanced by the participants in the summit and the preliminary steps proposed to initiate action on them.

Following a day of analysis and discussion, summit attendees prioritized the five summit issues as follows:

- #1 Priority: Increased Research Funding
- #2 Priority: Owner Education
- #3 Priority: Disease and Cost Analysis Database
- #4 Priority: Human Resource Needs and Solutions
- #5 Priority: Program Funding (Continuity of funding for equine research)

Priority #1: Increased Research Funding

Summit Recommendations:

1. Craft a unified message(s) to educate potential funders regarding the need for equine research, target equine magazines and utilize the Internet.
2. Develop education and information resources to support American Horse Council and state horse councils in their lobbying efforts to secure research funding.
3. Encourage grassroots efforts at the state and community level to raise equine research funding.
4. Conduct market research to analyze potential funding constituencies and determine how to target the most likely funders of equine research.

Action:

1. The recommendations are to be addressed at an Equine Research Coordination Group meeting scheduled for July 2006.

Priority #2: Owner Education

Summit Recommendations:

1. Develop and implement a collective broad-based campaign to educate horse owners and non-owners promoting the need for equine research funding.
2. Solicit assistance and funding from stakeholder partners and current equine research funding organizations to fund the educational campaign.
3. Redirect AAEP Foundation research funding (estimated at \$50,000 annually) to provide seed money for the owner education initiative.
4. Precisely target initial education efforts to maximize potential of limited funding.

Action:

1. Request funding from the AAEP Foundation in July 2006.

2. If funding is approved, retain a professional marketing firm by late 2006 to early 2007.
3. Once the cost of an educational campaign is determined, seek additional funding from equine research stakeholders and AAEP Foundation Educational Partners in 2007.

Priority #3: Database for Ongoing Disease and Cost Analysis

Summit Recommendations:

1. Survey AAEP membership to determine interest and willingness to participate in data collection.
2. Benchmark AAHA's and the Jockey Club programs and analyze their experience.
3. Conduct a forum of practice management companies to investigate how practice management systems might be designed or altered to capture disease information.
4. Use a small pilot study with a targeted group of practices to test the system.

Action:

1. AAEP Foundation research subcommittee to assist with survey instrument development in July 2006.
2. Meeting of practice management companies to be scheduled in December 2006 at the AAEP Annual Meeting.
3. Conduct AAEP member survey in first half of 2007.
4. Evaluate next steps after analyzing findings from the survey and meetings with practice management companies by July 2007.

Priority #4: Human Resource Needs and Solutions

Summit Recommendations:

1. Write "Position Papers" directed to funding agencies advocating a.) Raising the total stable stipend package for graduate students to a level comparable to the NIH; and b.) Allowing funding for graduate fellowships.

2. Write “Position Papers” directed to the deans of colleges of veterinary medicine advocating: a.) Proactive recruitment of pre-veterinarian and veterinarian students to research careers; b.) Dual programs that simultaneously train residents and researchers; and c.) Increased salary and benefit packages for academic veterinarians.
3. Develop a program to educate pre-veterinary and veterinary students about the possibility of careers in academic medicine and research.

Action:

1. The AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee will assign task forces in July 2006 to draft Position Papers that will be circulated for comment, approval and dissemination.
2. Request AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee to investigate educational program development for research career in alignment with scholarships.

Priority #5: Program Funding (Continuity of funding for equine research)

Summit Recommendations:

1. Educate owners, foundations and industry on the need for continuity of equine research for significant, long-term progress.
2. Write “Position Papers” directed to funding agencies advocating: a.) New investigator three-year grants; and b.) A consistent review process with clear criteria for grant and project evaluation.
3. Write a “Position Paper” directed to the deans of colleges of veterinary medicine advocating endowed programs of equine research to sustain specific research areas with the laboratory of an investigator.

Action:

1. The AAEP Foundation will assign task forces in July 2006 to draft Position Papers that will be circulated for comment, approved and disseminated.

Consultant's Notes

1. There appeared to be considerable consensus on the Summit recommendations and priorities.
2. Summit recommendations are ambitious given the lack of an organization to support and advance them.
3. There is significant reliance on the AAEP Foundation for most, if not all, of the recommendations. It is unknown at this point the extent that the Foundation will fund equine research in addition to its other missions.
4. It is assumed that equine research stakeholders other than the AAEP Foundation will be forthcoming with financial and administrative support.
5. The owner education effort may require a major resource commitment; the \$50,000 being requested from the AAEP Foundation may represent only a modest amount of seed money.
6. It was suggested that a collectively written position statement on equine research from the Summit attendees should be developed. This is not addressed in the action items in the report.

Appendix A
 Participants
 Equine Research Summit
 April 19-20, 2006
 Lexington, KY

Duncan	Alexander	American Live Stock Insurance Co.
Woody	Asbury	Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation
Ernie	Bailey	Gluck Equine Research Center
Craig	Barnett	Intervet
Warwick	Bayly	Washington State University CVM
Kristen	Benjamin	Morris Animal Foundation
Anthony	Blikslager	North Carolina State University CVM
Ed	Bowen	Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation
Larry	Bramlage	Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation
Noah	Cohen	Texas A&M University CVM
Mike	Corradini	Equine Research Coordination Group
Gregory	Ferraro	UC Davis SVM
Ray	Geor	University of Maryland-Virginia Tech
Robert	Holland	Pfizer
David	Hurley	University of Georgia CVM
Peter	Johnson	CSREES USDA
Catherine	Kohn	US Equestrian Federation
Michelle	LeBlanc	Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital
Tom	Lenz	Fort Dodge Animal Health
Amy	Mann	American Horse Council
Richard	Mansmann	North Carolina State University CVM
Wayne	Mcllwraith	Colorado State University CVM
Rustin	Moore	Louisiana State University Equine Health Studies
Alan	Nixon	Cornell CVM
Patricia	Olson	Morris Animal Foundation
Eric	Peterson	AAEP Foundation Research Advisory Committee
Gene	Pranzo	Havemeyer Foundation
Tom	Schaer	University of Pennsylvania CVM
Leland	Thompson	Bayer Animal Health
Peter	Timoney	Gluck Equine Research Center
Stephanie	Valberg	University of Minnesota CVM
Laurent	Viel	University of Guelph OVCM
Scot	Waterman	Racing Medication Testing Consortium
Nat	White	AAEP Foundation

Appendix B
Sponsors
Equine Research Summit
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