

NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



Foundation funds continuing education in Mongolia

As an international organization dedicated to helping horses worldwide, the AAEP Foundation found itself in receipt of an intriguing grant application earlier this year. The grant was to help fund a continuing education program thousands of miles away in Mongolia. After reviewing the grant, the Foundation funded this year's "Fast Horse Seminar" organized through the Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) as a worthy cause.

AAEP member Dr. Tom Juergens, along with Mongolia V.E.T. Net, a Mongolian Christian Veterinary group, held the 7th annual "Fast Horse Seminar" in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia June 28-July 1, 2006. This seminar was initiated by Dr. Juergens, founder of Anoka Equine Veterinary Services LTD in Elk River, Minn. and AAEP member Dr. Johnny Haffner, head of Equine Services at Middle Tennessee State University in the summer of 2000.

Mongolia is a country of horses and horsemen. Horses are a vital part of the nomadic herdsman's life and the culture of the entire country. The horses are used for herding, transportation, milking and distance racing. Each year Mongolian children between the ages of 6 and 12 participate in the horses racing at their national festival, Naadam. The Khans initiated these races in 1250 to test their notorious mounted soldiers. However, due to the lack of knowledge of conditioning, nutrition and dehydration, many horses have suffered substantial injuries during the race and some even death soon after the race.

Mongolian veterinary education is a five-year program with very little emphasis on modern veterinary medicine and no hands-on experience during veterinary school.

Dr. Gerald Mitchum, an American veterinarian in Mongolia since 1996, recognized the need for quality, modern veterinary education and solicited help from U.S. equine practitioners through the Christian Veterinary Mission in Seattle, Wash. Drs. Juergens and Haffner answered the call along with University of California-Davis veterinary student, Katherine Szabo.

The first seminar introduced intravenous fluid use, emergency first-aid treatment, lameness diagnosis, and colic examination and treatment, followed by three days of hands-on experience treating exhausted, dehydrated and lame horses during the races at Naadam. Since 2000, Drs. Juergens and Haffner have returned yearly to develop the "Fast Horse" equine seminar. Over 250 veterinarians have attended the seminar, and a wet lab has been added for hands-on education. Following these seminars many veterinar-

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AAEP member, Dr. Tom Juergens examines a horse during the 7th Annual Fast Horse Seminar.

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AAEP Foundation welcomes new development coordinator

The AAEP recently welcomed Leigh-Ann Sexton as its new development coordinator.

Leigh-Ann comes to the AAEP from New Jersey where she worked as a development associate with the Newton Memorial Hospital Foundation for the past five years. While with the hospital foundation, Leigh-Ann excelled in the development office, overseeing its fundraising database, employee appeal programs, special events, volunteer activities and assisted with various other annual giving and capital campaigns.

Leigh-Ann recently moved to Kentucky to be closer to family. Her mother has been a horse trainer for many years and Leigh-Ann grew up on a family farm showing horses in her younger years and helping on the farm. Currently, her family breeds and raises Thoroughbreds, American Quarter Horses and Haflingers on a farm in Shelby County, Ky. Leigh-Ann enjoys the outdoors, horses and spending time with her two Jack Russells.

Leigh-Ann replaces former Foundation Development Coordinator Amelia Geran who left the AAEP in August to attend graduate school.

Leigh-Ann can be contacted in the AAEP office at lasexton@aaep.org.

Barbaro injury highlights need for laminitis research funding

Ten million dollars in equine research funding is needed to unlock the mysteries of the devastating equine disease known as laminitis, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation, Inc. has said. The life-threatening injury to Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro and the subsequent development of laminitis in the horse's left hind foot have highlighted the prevalence and severity of the disease, which affects horses around the globe.

Members of the AAEP have identified laminitis as a disease with a high priority for future equine research. To advance this effort, the AAEP Foundation has developed an informative paper on the challenges of solving the laminitis puzzle and the need for increased research funding. Rustin M. Moore, DVM, a member of the AAEP and a professor and chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University, is the author.

The paper "Barbaro Injury Highlights Need for Laminitis Research Funding" can be viewed at www.aaep.org/laminitisresearchfunding, and is available for reprint. To learn more about laminitis, funding opportunities or current research, contact Keith Kleine, AAEP director of industry relations, at (859) 233-0147 or e-mail kkleine@aaep.org.



Radiographs of Barbaro's leg pre- and post-surgery.

Research Fellow winner chosen



Congratulations to Jennifer G. Barrett, DVM, MS, Ph.D., from Urbana, Ill., on being named the recipient of the AAEP Foundation's first-ever Research Fellow.

Dr. Barrett is currently a resident in equine surgery at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She holds a doctorate in molecular biology from Yale University and pursued her veterinary education at Cornell University.

The Research Fellow was developed by the AAEP Foundation as a way to emphasize the importance of equine research and to reward a researcher for his or her contributions. This scholarship was developed by AAEP past presidents and is for AAEP member graduates and residents who are completing their residency or graduate program while participating in equine research.

Dr. Barrett was chosen from a select group of very qualified applicants. She will be awarded with this scholarship at the 52nd Annual AAEP Convention during the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture, which is being presented by Dr. Nathaniel A. White, II, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, chairman of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee.

For more information on the AAEP Foundation's Research Fellow, visit the scholarship section of www.aaepfoundation.org.

Disaster relief funds go to help with future disasters

In October, the Foundation's Equine Disaster Relief Fund donated \$20,000 to help horses that may need assistance during future disasters in Florida and the Gulf Coast region. The project that received these funds was the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's VETS team, which is an integral part of Florida SART (State Agricultural Response Team).

The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) was tasked by the Florida governor to deploy teams to assist the state during the hurricanes of 2003, during which they deployed people for up to two weeks at a time with borrowed and personal equipment, and worked large and small animal issues. After 2003, the CVM established a formal response team (VETS) with the state SART team. The VETS team, deployed during Hurricane Wilma in 2005, assisted both equine and companion animal practitioners.

The University of Florida VETS team consists of faculty, staff and students able to go anywhere in the state during a disaster including hurricanes, large fires, flooding and other emergency needs. The team also may be available for EMAC deployment to other states as needed. The goal of VETS is not to replace any existing assistance programs, such as the American Veterinary Medical Foundation/USDA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT teams), but to augment them.

The VETS team is designed to respond immediately to an impacted area and to be self contained for food, water, fuel,



Photo courtesy of John Haven

Support from various organizations allowed the VETS Team to purchase this trailer.

etc. for several days. The team will immediately assess the veterinary care infrastructure of the community. It will assist practitioners to coordinate mutual aid and provide care in the community, and if needed, will initiate a veterinary "MASH" capability. VETS also will provide equine/large animal technical rescue and transport capability.

At full capacity, the VETS team will deploy with two equipment trailers to support the team, a small animal patient care center, portable stalls for equine/large animal, technical rescue equipment, satellite communications gear, an equine/large animal transport trailer, and three, four-wheel drive trucks, one of which has a mobile equine veterinary care box.

The technical rescue capability is not intended to be reserved for just statewide disasters. Over the next year, as more

equipment and training is made available, it is intended for the University of Florida Veterinary School to be the cornerstone of a trailer disaster network that operates year round, much like California is supported by the University of California at Davis Veterinary School, and the state of South Carolina by its Extension Network.

The VETS team's acquisition of equipment and training has been broadly supported. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association Foundation, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, PetSmart Charities, the American Kennel Club, the Leg Up Fund, Pepsi, Port-A-Vet, Webster Veterinary Supply, the Humane Society of the United States, and now the AAEP Foundation have all contributed money or in-kind support.

Continuing education cont.

ians have follow-up training in their remote countryside practices by V.E.T. Net veterinarians and Drs. Juergens and Haffner.

This year's seminar was attended by forty remote countryside veterinarians. With the help of the AAEP Foundation, many veterinarians that normally would not have been able to afford to attend, were

able to travel to the seminar site. Topics that were covered included nutrition, lameness, treatment of dehydration, reproduction, ophthalmology and wound care. Dr. Juergens also gave a presentation on the business aspects of an equine practice. A wet lab allowed the attendees to practice catheter placement, nasogastric intubation, teeth floating and lameness examinations.

Through the AAEP Foundation's support, the seminar was "taken on the road" and presented twice more in remote areas of Mongolia, Gobi Altai and Tseterleg. Dr. Juergens extended his stay this year to nine weeks visiting and training countryside veterinarians from the Gobi desert in the south to the mountains in the north.

Unwanted Horse Coalition folded into American Horse Council during summer; meets again this fall

The Unwanted Horse Coalition, a group that the AAEP Foundation has funded, was folded into the American Horse Council this summer and held a subsequent meeting in late October.

“The issue of ‘unwanted horses’ has faced this industry for some time,” said Nick Nicholson, president of the Keeneland Association. “It is an important and challenging national issue that faces all breeds and all activities in the horse world. Putting this initiative under the umbrella of the AHC, which represents all segments of the horse industry, is a natural fit.”

The Unwanted Horse Coalition grew out of a workshop that the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) organized as part of the 2005 AHC National Issues Forum in Washington, D.C.

Over the last 22 months, the group developed a mission statement, began identifying long-term solutions for improving the quality of life for unwanted horses, and developed an operating plan that ultimately led to the suggestion that the AHC provide a permanent administrative home for the group’s work.

“The need for a more formal structure, funding and staff to accomplish the Coalition’s mission prompted many of the members of the Coalition to suggest that it be affiliated with the AHC,” explained Dr. Tom Lenz, an AAEP past president and chairman of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. “Many of these associations already have a relationship with the Horse Council and feel comfortable in getting the Council more involved.”

The mission of the Coalition is to explore ways to reduce the number of horses that are unwanted each year and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care of the horse. Owner education will be a focus of the Coalition’s efforts.

Advocacy in the legislative arena is not part of the mission. In fact, the Coalition will not involve itself in any federal or state legislation dealing with slaughter or the processing of horses for human consumption.



The Unwanted Horse Coalition aims to develop programs that will help educate owners of horses such as this unwanted horse.

“The horse industry has a responsibility to its horses,” said Jay Hickey, president of the AHC. “All organizations and individuals, whether they use their horses for breeding, sport, show, work, recreation or pleasure, have a responsibility to ensure that everything is being done to minimize the number of horses that might fall into this unwanted group.”

On Oct. 31, 2006, the coalition met officially for the first time under the auspices of the American Horse Council at the United States Equestrian Federation headquarters in Lexington, Ky.

Representatives of the AAEP, the American Paint Horse Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, The Jockey Club, the National Horseman’s and Benevolent Protective Association, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the Professional Rodeo Stock Contractors, the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, the United States Equestrian Federation, and the U.S. Trotting Association attended the meeting.

Meeting participants discussed a number of issues relating to the unwanted horse situation in the United States and committees were established to continue work on communications and education,

research, fundraising, and steering functions of the Unwanted Horse Coalition.

The Coalition has hired Katy Carter to run the day-to-day activities of the Coalition, and a Web site will be launched in the near future to provide horse owners with resources about caring for horses and finding new homes for them. For more information about the Unwanted Horse Coalition and its efforts, please contact Katy Carter at (202) 296-4031 or e-mail kcarter@horsecouncil.org.

The AAEP Foundation Welcomes

the following new
committee member:

Dr. Rustin Moore

Research sets goals for programs

It's time to focus on the future of equine research. This was the conclusion of the Equine Research Coordination Group (ERCG), a group made up of researchers and organizations that support equine research.

Before this year the ERCG met annually to consider facilitating areas of cooperative equine research. After the Equine Research Summit this past April in Lexington, Ky., the ERCG met in Indianapolis to initiate objectives set forth by the large group that attended the summit.

The researchers and funding organizations at the Research Summit agreed that there is a need for more funding for future research, new researchers need to be attracted to equine research, and there is a need for increased horse owner and public education about the cost of technology and salary support needed for research. To help educate the public and collaborate to increase industry recognition of the problem, members of the ERCG met to strategize about how to meet the needs for future equine research.

Working as a group, dedicated to increasing funding for equine research, the ERCG formalized action with a strategic plan. Members of the ERCG are already involved in either funding or doing research, so rather than funding research, the ERCG has been developed to facilitate

the education of the equine industry, general public and government agencies about the need to increase research for the long-term benefit of horses and horse owners.

Working as a group, dedicated to increasing funding for equine research, the ERCG formalized action with a strategic plan. Because ERCG members either fund or complete research, the ERCG will not fund research but will facilitate the education of the equine industry, general public and government agencies about the need to increase research for the long-term benefit of horses and horse owners.

The meeting was attended by: Nat White, II, DVM (AAEP Foundation); Ed Bowen (Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation); Patty Olson, DVM, Ph.D. (Morris Animal Foundation), Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D. (Colorado State University), Rustin Moore, DVM (The Ohio State University); Dick Mansmann, VMD, Ph.D. (North Carolina State University); Eleanor Green, DVM (University of Florida); Ernie Bailey, Ph.D. (Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center); Catherine Kohn, VMD (US Equestrian Federation); Amy Mann (American Horse Council); and Keith Kleine (AAEP).

As a result of this follow-up meeting in April, the group developed the following mission statement:

"To advance the health and welfare of

horses by promoting the discovery and sharing of new knowledge, enhancing awareness of the need for targeted research, educating the public, expanding fundraising opportunities, and facilitating cooperation among funding agencies."

In addition, the group identified and adopted the following five specific objectives:

1. Increase funding for equine research.
2. Provide education on the importance and benefits of funding equine research.
3. Coordination of research information within the equine research community.
4. Explore opportunities for joint funding of equine research projects.
5. Identify the current needs of researchers and the research community.

In an effort to support the work of this group and to take a lead in the coordination effort, the AAEP will be hiring a part-time staff person to work specifically on the projects designed to meet the objectives of the ERCG.

The ERCG plans to meet again in December, during the AAEP's Annual Convention, to continue its efforts to initiate strategies aimed at fulfilling the objectives.

Advertise your practice with AAEP Horse Sense Calendars

The AAEP 2007 Horse Sense Calendar is now available to order. Every calendar is custom printed with the name, address and telephone number of your clinic to ensure your clients can easily contact you. In addition to an incredible selection of high-quality photographs from renowned equine photographers, each month features a timely horse health note to enhance your client's care-taking abilities. New to this year's calendar is an extra page consisting of helpful diagrams of the equine anatomy.

All orders are placed through Global Publishing and Marketing and must be mailed or faxed. Visit www.aaepfoundation.org, and click on "How Can I Give," then "AAEP Trust Calendar" to download copies of the calendar and greeting card order forms.



Lameness Research Meeting and Panel to be held in 2007

An Equine Lameness Research Meeting and Panel will be held in July 2007 in conjunction with the AAEP's annual Focus meeting and Practice Management Seminar to be held Fort Collins, Colo.

The panel will review current research and discuss strategies for collaboration and priorities for lameness research. The AAEP Foundation will sponsor the meeting and panel and will collaborate with other groups for additional support. More details about this meeting and panel will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

The AAEP Foundation organized the first industry wide research panel in the summer of 2004 with an Equine Laminitis Research Panel and Meeting. The group met to summarize the current state of laminitis research. A list of those conclusions and recommendations to help direct future research is now available on the AAEP Foundation's Web site at www.aepfoundation.org.

More than 40 researchers and graduate students from around the world as well as representatives from the equine industry, funding foundations and equine publications participated in the Equine Laminitis Research Panel and Meeting. The AAEP Foundation, the American Quarter Horse Association Foundation, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation sponsored the event.

The AAEP Foundation also sponsored a meeting of a group of researchers who met at the World Equine Airway Symposium at Cornell University in July 2005. This group outlined the need and priorities for equine respiratory research in the areas of infectious diseases, lower airway diseases including recurrent airway obstruction, and upper airway diseases. Similar to the laminitis panel, the researchers made specific recommendations for the direction of equine respira-

tory research and areas of collaboration.

In the summer of 2005, immediately following the Eighth International Equine Colic Research Symposium, held in Quebec City, Canada, the Colic Research Panel met to discuss the future direction of research on equine colic. That meeting produced the Colic Research Panel Report. The AAEP Foundation, with the support of AAEP Educational Partner Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, put the symposium together as a way to exchange information about colic among researchers, help increase collaboration and stimulate new research. Topics ranged from the latest information on colic, to shock, gastric ulcers, intestinal motility and diagnosis of the acute abdomen. Many of the advances that will affect the way veterinarians treat colic and related problems in the next few years were presented at this series of lectures and poster sessions. This panel's report is also available online.

Thank you to 2006 auction donors

The AAEP Foundation would like to thank the AAEP members, horse owners, individuals, equine industry organizations and corporate partners who supported the Foundation by donating items and funds to help purchase items for the 2006 Foundation Celebration live and silent auctions. Thank you for your continued support and helping us help horses. *Donors as of Nov. 16, 2006:*

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Equine Memorial Program expands

For many years, AAEP members and their practices have honored their client's horses after their death through the Equine Memorial Program. The Foundation has now added a way to honor the passing of a colleague, friend or client through its memorial program. The program provides an easy and meaningful way for individuals to extend their condolences throughout the year, while supporting a good cause at the same time. Donations support – research, education, benevolence and the equine community; funding important industry research efforts; and supporting tomorrow's veterinarians through scholarships and more.

Memorial gifts can be made in lieu of flowers or sympathy cards. Gifts can be made in any denomination and should always contain the proper information for us to recognize and acknowledge your contribution.

Upon receipt of your gift, the AAEP Foundation will send notification to the

family or friends of the deceased being honored by your gift. The monetary amount of your gift will not be disclosed. A thank you letter will also be sent to you, acknowledging your gift. In addition, memorial gifts will be recognized as part of the Annual Fund so you'll be recognized through various AAEP and AAEP Foundation publications and the Web site if you so desire.

The AAEP Foundation is proud to announce that its current Memorial Program has raised a record \$40,000 through October 2006. This is a tremendous amount of support for the memorial program and the Foundation. Thank you to all that have participated and become contributors to this wonderful program. For more information about the AAEP Foundation and how you can help us help horses through the Memorial Program please visit www.aaepfoundation.org or contact Pam Shook at (859) 233-1047 (or 800-443-0177 within the U.S.) or e-mail pshook@aaep.org.

CARE FOR THEM . . . EVEN AFTER THEY'RE GONE

Make a lasting tribute through the Equine Memorial Program.

You cared for your client's horse throughout its life, now show you care for its memory, too. Make an Equine Memorial Contribution to the AAEP Foundation and you'll support the mission of the Foundation while strengthening the reputation of your practice. Better yet, you'll help honor and remember the beloved equine friend of your valued client.

*Support the AAEP Foundation through
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The AAEP Foundation, Inc. improves the health and welfare of the horse through support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community.

Need tax deductions? Make a donation by year-end

The Foundation continues to strive towards helping horses with the help of so many generous AAEP members, horse owners, individuals, equine industry organizations and corporate partners who support our efforts. This year, you too could become a partner in "Helping Us Help Horses" by making a donation. Please be assured that your contribution will be used specifically to improve the

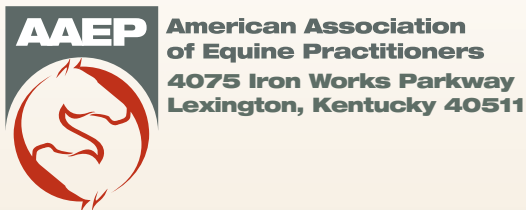
health and welfare of the horse through support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. On behalf of the AAEP staff and AAEP Foundation board of directors, please accept our wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.



Did you know you can consider these ways to donate?

- You can donate to the AAEP Foundation through a planned gift, memorial or honorary gift, annual gift or make a cash contribution towards next year's Foundation Celebration Live and Silent Auction.
- An IRA rollover will allow you to roll over funds from an IRA as a donation with a tax-free advantage. *(Certain age limits and restrictions apply. Consult your financial or legal counsel for specifics.)*

Enclosed is a postage-paid business reply envelope for your donation. We thank you for your support in helping us help horses.



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