

# NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



## AAEP Foundation Distributes \$262,000 to Industry Groups Improving the Lives of Horses

The AAEP Foundation has awarded \$262,000 in grants to 15 non-profit organizations and universities working for the health and welfare of horses. These 2010 grant recipients share the Foundation's mission to support equine research, benevolence, education and the equine community.

From funding laminitis research to sponsoring an "equitarian" mission in Mexico, the Foundation is supporting a wide range of initiatives in 2010 and 2011 that are improving equine welfare. The Foundation has teamed with the Unwanted Horse Coalition to launch Operation Gelding, a program that assists clinics in providing free castration services for stallions. Meeting the research priorities of equine veterinarians, the Foundation has committed funding for the 10th Annual International Colic Symposium, a veterinary meeting focused on colic research scheduled for July 2011.

Investing in future industry technologies, the Foundation is assisting Colorado State University and Equine Guelph with the development of International Equine Biosecurity Risk Calculator, an interactive online assessment tool designed with the goal of providing equine operation owners or managers with a way to objectively evaluate their biosecurity programs.

Groups including the American Quarter Horse Foundation, Morris Animal Foundation, American Youth Horse Council, World Equine Veterinary Association, National FFA, The Race For Education and the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation are among others that are receiving funding from the Foundation. In a continued effort to promote the veterinary profession, the Foundation is allocating funding for a number of student programs, including

dentistry and farriery short courses, scholarships, and activities stipends for AAEP student chapters.

For a complete list of grant recipients and Foundation-supported programs, visit [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).



*Veterinary students learn about careers in equine veterinary medicine at the 2010 Opportunities in Equine Practice Seminar, a program supported by the AAEP Foundation.*

"We are very pleased to once again offer funding to so many worthy programs and organizations," said Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, DSc, FRCVS, Diplomate ACVS, AAEP Foundation Chairman. "The funds awarded by the AAEP Foundation would not be possible without the generous support of our many donors."

All donations to the AAEP Foundation go directly to helping horses and their caretakers. Grants are distributed annually so that donors can see the fulfillment of their contributions to the Foundation.

For the past 16 years the AAEP Foundation has allocated more than \$1.8 million in grants to programs that promote the health of horses. Grant applications for 2011 will be available at [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org) in early February.

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## Service-driven workshop teaches practitioners skills for “equitarian” work

*AAEP members gain experience serving equids in Mexico’s developing communities*

More than 500 of Mexico’s working horses, mules, burros and donkeys received vital veterinary care from 27 AAEP volunteers and fellow Mexican equine practitioners during the first AAEP and AAEP Foundation-supported Equitarian Workshop.

The workshop, held Oct. 17-22 in Vera Cruz, Mexico, served as a crash course for equine practitioners seeking to use their veterinary expertise to improve the lives of working equids and people they serve in the developing world. During this highly interactive workshop, teams of practitioners traveled to impoverished communities throughout the region where working equids were in need of medical care.

Participants were forced to quickly adapt to field work as they rotated to different work stations, including welfare assessment, surgery, medicine, dentistry, parasitology, lameness, farriery and saddle fitting. Temporary work stations were set up in areas about the size of a soccer field and each was directed by an experienced equitarian practitioner. Members of the community waited in lines for hours to present their working horse, donkey, burro or mule for free treatment.

Morning lectures held at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México research farm addressed topics unique to field medicine, including performing surgeries, assessing equine welfare, understanding the varying roles of working equids, serving with cultural sensitivity and educating horse owners on proper care.

Dr. Jay Merriam, one of the founders of the AAEP’s equitarian movement, joined with UNAM’s Dr. Mariano Hernandez to organize the meeting. The team served four geographically and culturally diverse Mexican communities with unique veterinary needs. Throughout the four-day workshop, dentistry and parasitology work stations remained especially busy. Practitioners also frequently treated cases of lameness and musculoskeletal problems, many of which were caused by match racing. The team completed 30 surgeries, including geldings, hernia repair and sarcoid resections.

According to Dr. Merriam, this combined learning and service experience has laid the foundation for future AAEP equitarian meetings. On the final day



*AAEP members volunteered services in four developing Mexican communities Oct. 17-22.*

of the meeting, participants assessed the needs found in the Mexican communities and shared opportunities to continue to serve in developing communities around the world. Currently, there are projects being organized to serve working equids in Nicaragua, Haiti and Bangladesh.

Dr. Merriam hopes equitarian meetings will lend practitioners with the cultural knowledge and field training to start up new initiatives where the quality of life of the working equid can improve the condition of the community. At future workshops, Dr. Merriam said there will be more focus on educating members of the community about proper horsemanship and sustainable health care. He said there’s no better group than the AAEP, with its reputation for providing quality continuing education, to coordinate equitarian workshops.

“The whole point of this workshop was to expose people with motivation to the possibilities,” Dr. Merriam said. “We are going to be a seed for future projects. Hopefully, these meetings will continue and attract new participants, and those participants will go on to set up their own projects or continue their efforts.”

The Equitarian Workshop was made possible through a partnership of seven



organizations, including the AAEP, the AAEP Foundation, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, the Donkey Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare and the Asociación Mexicana de Médicos Veterinarios Especialistas en Equinos, A.C.

In addition, the Foundation extends its thanks to individuals and companies for their support of this program through in-kind donations, including Pfizer Animal Health, Butler Schein Animal Health, Victor Medical Company, Horsepower Dental Tools, Mr. John Sabio and Dr. Jorge Murga.

## A new legacy commitment honors a shared passion for horses and education

*AAEP Foundation endowed fund to assist more students in achieving their veterinary dreams*

When horse owner Cari Anderson-Meadows was planning her estate, she wanted to establish a scholarship to help more women become equine veterinarians. Without knowing an appropriate charitable organization to carry out this wish, she consulted her equine veterinarian for direction.

During a routine barn visit, AAEP member Dr. Margo Machen pointed her client to the AAEP logo embroidered on her hat. Dr. Machen advised Cari to explore opportunities to give to the AAEP Foundation, which supports scholarships for students entering equine medicine. Cari was interested, but had another question for her veterinarian.

“If I give the Foundation this gift, do you think they’ll give me one of those?” she quipped, gesturing to her veterinarian’s AAEP hat.

Today, Cari owns several AAEP logo hats in a variety of colors. And, thanks to a critical conversation between veterinarian and horse owner, more veterinary students will receive financial

support as they pursue careers in equine medicine or research.

Cari established the M. Kay Smith and Carolyn Anderson-Meadows Endowed Fund through the AAEP Foundation. Specific wording in her trust document indicates her estate will provide each year a generous scholarship to a student pursuing a career in equine medicine or research. The gift is a special tribute to Cari’s long-time companion, Kay Smith, a driving and saddle horse trainer who always put the health of her horses first. Kay passed away in 2007.

A high school teacher for more than 40 years, Cari considers the scholarship well-suited to honor both her fervor for education and Kay’s dedication to horses. Growing up in an era when women faced social obstacles pursuing their passions, Cari hopes the estate gift will help more prospective female equine veterinarians realize their career goals are attainable.

“It was because of our shared belief that people should pursue their dreams that



*Cari Anderson-Meadows planned an estate gift to the AAEP Foundation to honor Kay Smith’s dedication to horses.*

this scholarship was formed,” Cari said. “Kay’s love of all things equine and my love of education – it seemed like such a natural fit.”

A client of Dr. Machen’s for three years, Cari keeps eight horses on the farm, along with several dogs and birds. She knows she can trust Dr. Machen to provide medical information with candor and compassion. It’s this trusting relationship that prompted her to look to her veterinarian for advice on charitable giving.

“She is a phenomenal vet – she is insightful, intelligent, and she cares,” Cari said of Dr. Machen. “She has always been the kind of person who calls it like it is, and I appreciate that.”

## Create a Legacy with the Foundation - Join the new Legacy Society

An estate gift to the AAEP Foundation can eventually fund scholarships, research projects, educational or benevolent programs, or other interests of the donor. Anyone can help by planning a gift that will be fully funded in the future. It’s a deeply rewarding way to express your belief in the Foundation’s mission of helping horses.

Now, with the new planned giving circle called the Legacy Society, we are recognizing people who make this type of commitment – regardless of the amount – because laying this groundwork for the future of the Foundation is crucial.

To assist you in thinking about a planned gift, the Foundation has launched a new page at on its Web site called “Discover the Benefits of Giving Wisely.” There you can find free helpful tools including wording for simple wills, trusts and codicils, comparisons of different plans, and tax estimators.

The Foundation staff can provide suggested wording for you to share with your professional advisors. If you make a planned gift, please let us know so that we may thank you for your foresight and generosity. Of course, requests for anonymity are honored.

### The benefit of notifying the AAEP Foundation of your plans

Through wills, trusts and other planning tools, you can provide for the future needs of your family as well as special concerns and organizations you care about. Some people choose one or more charities as final beneficiaries of the funds remaining in an estate after other heirs are provided for.

It is a good idea to notify the charity of your intent for several reasons:

- It assures that your intentions for the gift or fund are met.
- It helps the organization with long-range planning.

- Information may be available on ways to give more effectively.

The best giving plans make a difference in others’ lives and can improve your financial or tax situation. In considering this, there are several methods from which you can choose, each with different benefits. In addition, some giving methods pay you for a particular time period, after which the remainder of the gift will be your legacy to the AAEP Foundation. Gifts from bequests, trusts or other instruments may be unrestricted or designated for a purpose that hold special meaning to you and your family. They may be for a specific amount or in the form of a residual bequest.

Learn about the AAEP Foundation’s efforts and those who benefit by visiting [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org). Click on ‘Create a Legacy’ to find specific information about estate planning.

## Scholarship program impacts the industry

### *AAEP Foundation Scholars: Where are they now?*

Since 1989, the AAEP Foundation and Hiscox Insurance Company Inc., formerly American Livestock, have sponsored annual scholarships to support outstanding fourth-year veterinary students who have demonstrated a commitment to equine medicine and research. Today, former scholars are making impact profession as AAEP leaders, successful practicing veterinarians, student mentors and innovative researchers.

**Former Scholar:** Amber Labelle, DVM, MS

**Current position:** Clinical Assistant Professor of Comparative Ophthalmology, The Ohio State University

**Veterinary School:** University of California – Davis, Class of 2004

**When did you realize your dream of becoming an equine veterinarian?**

The moment that cemented my dream was when my event horse colicked when I was around the age of 13. Walking him, waiting for the veterinarian, feeling helpless... it was one of the worst experiences of my life. I swore that I wouldn't ever feel like I couldn't help a horse ever again and set out pursuing veterinary medicine as a career.

**Briefly describe the highlights of your involvement in your AAEP student chapter.**

I was president of my student chapter at the University of California – Davis for two years. I was strongly encouraged by my professors to be involved with organized veterinary medicine and help shape the future of the profession.

**How have you been involved with the AAEP since graduating from veterinary school?**

I have served as a member of the Student Relations Committee for the past six years, taking on the role of vice chair in 2009. I also served a term on the Membership Development Committee. I am proud of the changes that both of these committees instituted during my time of involvement, including reduced dues rates for interns and residents, mentoring programs, changes to the Avenues program and improved opportunities for students.

**What do you consider, to date, to be your greatest contribution to equine veterinary medicine?**

Every veterinary student I have had the chance to teach is my greatest contribution. Sounds cheesy, but it's true. As an academic clinician, the gravity and seriousness of the responsibility for educating future veterinarians weighs heavily on my mind, and I try to treat them and teach them as well as I have been educated and treated.

**What aspect of your career do you enjoy most?**

I enjoy people, and I enjoy horses. When people and horses intersect, I am a happy camper. As an academic specialty clinician I am not a full-time equine practitioner, so my very favorite parts of the day are going down to the barn to see my equine patients. I love horse people and, of course, I love the horses. The second favorite part of my job is teaching. There is nothing more satisfy-



ing than watching students learn and grow. My third favorite part of my job is clinical research, learning new things and helping make scientific advancements. When I really think about it, I just enjoy my whole career!

**Describe how the AAEP Foundation/Hiscox Insurance Company scholarships assisted you in your pursuit of becoming an equine veterinarian.**

The AAEP Foundation/Hiscox Insurance Company scholarship helped me in two ways. First, it was a significant financial windfall in my life and provided some much-needed financial relief in my final year of veterinary school. Second, it inducted me into a prestigious group of colleagues that I feel humbled and fortunate to be a part of. Some of the people I admire most in veterinary medicine were scholarship recipients. To have that sort of recognition made me proud and also made me want to try harder to live up to the expectations of those who had faith and had given me this scholarship gift.

**What advice do you have for students currently pursuing a career in equine veterinary medicine?**

I have three pieces of advice for future equine veterinarians:

- Get as much horse experience as possible. There is absolutely no substitute for spending time with horses. No amount of studying will teach you about equine body language—you have to see it for yourself.
- Live frugally while you are in vet school. Student debt is at an all-time high. Far better to go without for now and not pay down those luxuries for the rest of your career. A little frugality now will go a long way towards your future financial security.
- You are responsible for your own education. I will bend over backwards for the motivated and interesting students. Veterinary school is not about getting spoon-fed education. Take every opportunity to learn what you can while you are in school, and never miss the chance to learn something from a new person.

For more information about Foundation scholarships, visit [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).

## Foundation teams with the UHC in 2010 to help launch Operation Gelding



In 2010, the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) initiated Operation Gelding, a program providing financial support and resources to organizations, associations and events that offer horse owners free castration services. The AAEP Foundation and the UHC teamed to donate the initial funds to start up the program.

Under the terms of the program, the UHC provides information and forms necessary to conduct a clinic, along with seed money to defray the costs. Funds of \$50 per horse gelded, with a \$1,000 maximum, are awarded to groups once a year. Assistance will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, subject to available resources. Organizations can apply by filling out the Operation Gelding Funding Form provided by the UHC. Funds will be awarded once the clinic is complete and a veterinary statement is provided. With the inauguration

of Operation Gelding, the UHC will become more directly involved in helping horses.

Any organization, association or event can participate in the UHC's Operation Gelding program. Please pass this information on to your state and local organizations or other equine organizations in your area.

Operation Gelding will help prevent the over-breeding of stallions and produce a gentler horse that is more rideable, more trainable and more marketable. In addition, the programs will help reduce the number of horses being bred and aid in the adoption or sale of more horses. There are many ways that organizations and events can become involved in helping reduce the population of unwanted horses. Supported annually by the AAEP Foundation, the UHC offers a variety of resources, including the UHC's handbook, *Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help Unwanted Horses*, which outlines other activities that organizations, associa-

tions and events can undertake to create programs that help horses in need. *Best Practices* cites many examples of how organizations and groups can get involved, including gelding clinics. This handbook, along with other information about the UHC, can be found at [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org).



*The AAEP Foundation provided financial support to establish Operation Gelding.*

## Foundation to host 10th International Equine Colic Research Symposium in July 2011

The 10th International Equine Colic Research Symposium, a global forum for leading veterinary researchers to exchange information about colic, will be held July 26-28, 2011, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Hosted by the AAEP Foundation, the Symposium is held every three years and brings together top researchers, surgeons and internist to embark upon advances in the study of equine colic. Initiated in 1982, the Symposium alternates its location between North America and Europe. The goal of the meeting is to provide a platform to stimulate collaboration among colic researchers and encourage the exchange of new information.

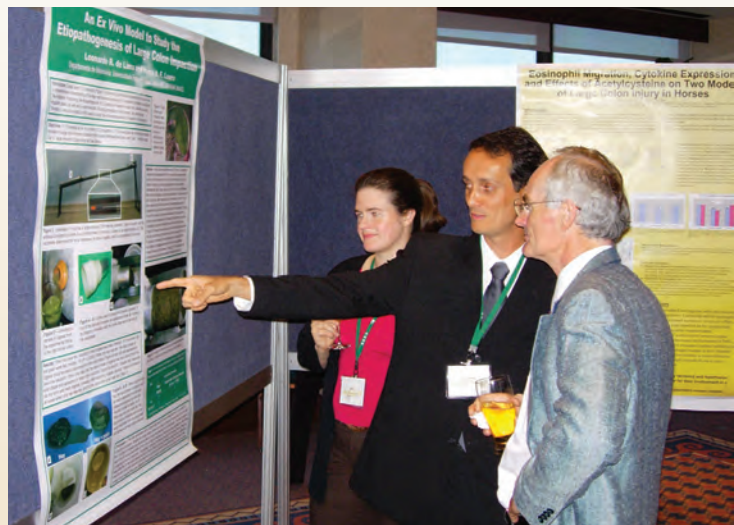
Topics range from the latest information on shock, gastric ulcers, intestinal motility, diagnosis, parasitology, complications, intestinal motility, surgery, and treatments for colic and laminitis. Research presented at the Symposium will affect the way veterinarians treat colic and related problems in the years

to come. The meeting consists of a series of lectures with two poster sessions each evening. An abstract book with each author's presentation will be available for those attending the meeting.

The Program Committee is seeking abstracts, which should be submitted to the AAEP office by Jan. 28, 2011. The instructions for the abstracts can be found at [www.aaep.org/colicresearch\\_abstracts.htm](http://www.aaep.org/colicresearch_abstracts.htm).

### Colic Research Symposium

**Program Committee**  
 Dr. Debbie Archer  
 Dr. Michelle Barton  
 Dr. Vanessa Cook  
 Dr. David Freeman  
 Dr. Tim Mair  
 Dr. Jim Moore  
 Dr. Chris Proudman  
 Dr. Gerald Schusser  
 Dr. Nat White



*Researchers learn new information about colic at a poster session during the 8th International Equine Colic Research Symposium hosted by the AAEP Foundation in Quebec City, Canada, in 2005.*

*Registration for the symposium will be open to all, with full details available in January 2011 at [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).*

## Horse Sense calendars make great gifts and help horses

Promote your practice, farm or business and show your commitment to the AAEP Foundation by giving clients the AAEP's 2011 Horse Sense calendars. Purchasing these calendars as year-end gifts for your clients will demonstrate your support of the AAEP Foundation's efforts to help horses through research, education, benevolence and the equine community.

In addition to beautiful, professional photos, the calendar features:

- Monthly health notes to keep your clients educated on horse health care
- Diagrams of the horse
- Your practice's information (name, address, telephone number and website) printed on each calendar

The holidays are approaching fast, so make your order today! To order your copies, visit [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org) or contact Pam Shook, Foundation programs coordinator, at [pshook@aaep.org](mailto:pshook@aaep.org).



## Become an Ambassador for the Foundation

Over the years, AAEP members have served as advocates for the AAEP Foundation. They have helped enhance awareness for the Foundation's mission, assisted in bringing gifts in to the Foundation and played a crucial role in establishing relationships with those interested in helping.



The AAEP Foundation has established an Ambassadors program in order to better:

- Build awareness for the Foundation.
- Identify needs and opportunities based on the Foundation's mission and plans.
- Identify and cultivate interest and desire in donor prospects.
- Organize solicitation and careful **stewardship of potential donors.**

Ambassadors may be AAEP members or others committed to the mission of the Foundation. Members of this new group will be recognized in Foundation publications, on the Web site and more. Roles, tasks and opportunities for involvement will be personalized based on the interests and schedule of each participant.

Is there a role for you as a Foundation Ambassador?

- Can you inform others of this Foundation's mission and vision?
- Can you help identify those who have the capacity to make a major gift to this Foundation?
- Can you help a prospect who is interested in the Foundation?
- Are you willing to say, in your own words, why you have invested in the Foundation?

By integrating an active group of ambassadors into Foundation efforts, the organization can move forward into more opportunities for meaningful dialogue with current or potential donors. Personal relationships and trust are key to the Foundation's future ability to raise awareness, enhance its programs, raise funds and provide grants for projects that AAEP members care deeply about.

To all those who have been a voice for the Foundation in the past, we extend our deepest thanks! And, we invite you to consider helping the Foundation in the future by serving as an Ambassador.

For more information about how you can become a Foundation Ambassador, simply visit online at [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org) or contact Jodie Bingham at [jbingham@aaep.org](mailto:jbingham@aaep.org) or (859) 233-0147.

## Missouri practitioner's Client Appreciation Day doubles as a Foundation benefit

More than 100 of Dr. Roger Shaw's clients took in breathtaking views of the Ozarks as they rode along the Eleven Points River Oct. 23. The AAEP member who annually hosts a Client Appreciation Day trail ride on his Missouri Ranch decided this year to use the event as an opportunity to raise funds for the AAEP Foundation.

Clients gathered with their horses for a 10-mile trail ride that spanned across the hilly landscape of Dr. Shaw's ranch. As participants signed in for the invitation-only event, they were presented with the opportunity to give a voluntary donation to the AAEP Foundation. Almost \$700 was raised for the benefit of the Foundation.



The AAEP Foundation thanks Dr. Shaw and his clients for their contributions. To learn more about hosting a fundraising event to benefit the Foundation, contact Pam Shook at pshook@aaep.org.

## How your donations help

Since 1994, the AAEP Foundation has been helping horses and their care takers through four primary ways:

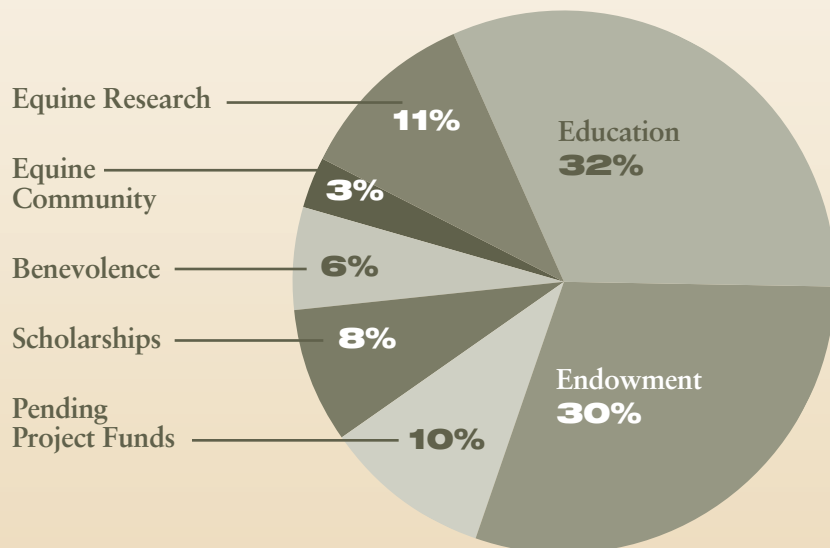
- Scholarships for equine veterinary students, including research and graduate scholarships
- Education for AAEP members and their clients
- The coordination and funding of equine research
- Benevolent support for horses and educational programs worldwide

Since its inception the Foundation has allocated more than \$1.8 million to support these programs.

A unique design of the AAEP Foundation is that 100% of all donations directly help horses and their care takers and are not used for any administration or fundraising efforts of the Foundation. Thanks to the support of the AAEP and its members, all operating costs are supported by the parent organization, the AAEP. This allows all contributions to go directly to helping horses through the support of programs.

Here is a brief look at how your donations helped horses in 2010.

## Where your gifts went in 2010



## AAEP FOUNDATION, INC.

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

The AAEP Foundation's mission is to improve the health and welfare of the horse through support of research education, benevolence and the equine community.



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## **It's easy to support the AAEP Foundation with an end-of-the-year gift!**

Consider giving horses the gift of a better life this holiday season by supporting the work of the AAEP Foundation. You can find convenient year-end giving options at [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).

Your contribution will be used to improve the health and welfare of the horse through support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community. One hundred percent of your donation will be used to support the Foundation's initiatives to help horses. Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. Each donation makes an important difference in what we are able to accomplish.

At [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org), you will find information about the various ways to join AAEP members, corporate partners and horse owners who have already made the Foundation a priority in 2010. You can use the online gift form, which will be credited to the Foundation immediately, or download the simple donation form to put in the mail by Dec. 31. You

As you are contemplating your objectives for the future, we hope you will consider including the following giving options to the AAEP Foundation in your plans. Because of our 501(c)(3) status, your contribution qualifies as a charitable deduction.

Consider:

- Setting up an endowed scholarship in the name of your family, farm, practice or to honor someone you know, including a horse or person.
- Giving appreciated stock that's been held for more than a year.
- Including the Foundation in your will or trust as one of your beneficiaries.

may also choose to give by phone at (800) 443-0177 (U.S.) or (859) 233-0147.

If you hesitate to give to your favorite causes because you are concerned about today's economic situation or need your assets in the future, then a gift in your will, called a bequest, could be the right option for you. Adding the AAEP Foundation as a beneficiary of your will, trust, paid-up life insurance policy or retirement plan is easy. These gifts are not payable until death. You can even have the comfort of knowing that you can amend or change a charitable bequest if your circumstances or family needs change. A bequest like

this is a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime but qualifies for membership in the Foundation's new "Legacy Society," which recognizes people who make an estate commitment, regardless of the amount.

Visit the Foundation's new Web page titled "Discover the Benefits of Giving Wisely" at [www.legacy.vg/aaep/giving/1.html](http://www.legacy.vg/aaep/giving/1.html). There you can find free helpful tools including wording for simple wills, trusts and codicils, comparisons of different plans, and tax estimators.

Thank you for your support in "Helping Us Help Horses."