

NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



AAEP Foundation endeavors to unravel the mysteries of laminitis through research series

Laminitis Research Project receives \$200,000 donation from Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica

The AAEP Foundation has launched an aggressive \$1 million research campaign and the first of multiple studies to help unravel the mysteries of laminitis, a devastating disease of the equine foot.

Through the Laminitis Research Project, top equine researchers, AAEP members and horse owners will work together to lay a foundation for the future of laminitis research. With new information about nature of the disease, the AAEP Foundation intends to equip equine practitioners with the ability to prevent and treat horses diagnosed with laminitis.

The Foundation received a \$200,000 donation to support of the first study in the series, A Case-Control Study of Pasture- and Endocrinopathy-Associated Laminitis in Horses, supported by Prascend® (pergolide mesylate), manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. The donation was announced Nov. 19 during the AAEP's 57th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. This study is currently underway and being directed by Texas A&M University epidemiologist Noah Cohen, VMD, Ph.D.

Veterinarians and horse owners are encouraged to join the effort



Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, AAEP Foundation Chairman, accepts a \$200,000 donation to the Foundation on behalf of Prascend® (pergolide mesylate) from Dr. Jane Smith, Executive Director, Equine Segment, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

to eradicate laminitis through their active involvement with the Laminitis Research Project. You can contribute to furthering research by sharing information from eligible laminitic and control horses with our research team. Horse owners and veterinarians can also choose to help through fundraising at their equine facility, home, business or veterinary practice.

For more information about participating in the study or contributing to the Laminitis Research Project, visit www.aepfoundation.org.



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.

Ambassadors in Action

Bebe's Legacy: Young rider raises funds for colic research

Thirteen-year-old Haley Ruffner of Allegany, N.Y., turned her loss into a mission to raise funds for colic research after the disease took the life of her sorrel pony, Bebe. Through Haley's fundraising and T-shirt sales at her county fair and summer shows, the "Bebe's Legacy" campaign raised nearly \$1,400 for the AAEP Foundation and helped raise awareness about the need for colic research.



Above, inset: Haley Ruffner (4th from the right) and her friends come together to raise money for colic research and celebrate Bebe's Legacy. Above, top: Haley and Bebe were an inseparable team.

After Haley adopted Bebe from a rescue, the pair was inseparable. With Haley aboard, they were an unstoppable team at the local 4-H shows. Bebe was quiet enough to be ridden by children in Special Olympics events at the barn. Hats off to Haley and everyone who helped her – they are all incredible ambassadors for the AAEP Foundation.

Missouri Client Appreciation Ride benefits Foundation

AAEP-member Dr. Roger Shaw and Eleven Point Equine Clinic held their 3rd Annual Client Appreciation Trail

Ride Oct. 22 along the headwaters of the Eleven Point River in Thomasville, Mo. Dr. Shaw started the annual ride as a way to give back to his clients. But because of Dr. Shaw's enthusiasm for the AAEP Foundation, his clients have started to give back to help horses. More than 100 clients that participated in the ride this fall helped raise nearly \$1,000 for the Foundation. Thanks to Dr. Shaw and his generous clients!

Local Tennessee Chamber of Commerce thanks veterinarians through Foundation gift

When 30 of the south's top horse and rider teams competed at Tennessee Equine Hospital's Grand Prix May 29, the veterinarians working the event were thanked through a gift to the AAEP Foundation.

During the event, the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce hosted a party celebrating the horse industry and its economic impact on the county. More than 300 tickets were purchased for the event. To show appreciation for Tennessee Equine Hospital acting as the primary corporate sponsor for the event, the Chamber gave a \$500 donation to the AAEP Foundation in honor of the show's veterinarians and horses.

"We are thankful for the local horse industry and its positive impact on our local business community," Nancy Conway, executive director of Chamber, said.

Thanks to Tennessee Equine Hospital and the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce for partnering to help the horse through this donation.



Tennessee Equine Hospital Grand Prix benefits the AAEP Foundation.

Become an Ambassador

Ambassadors still needed to help spread the word about the Foundation's mission

For more information about the Ambassador Program or to sign up to become an Ambassador, visit the Foundation's website at www.aaepfoundation.org or contact Jodie Bingham at jbingham@aaep.org or toll free in the U.S. at 800-443-0177.



Tool kit available for those wishing to help promote the Foundation

The AAEP has introduced an Ambassador "Tool Kit" designed to help you proactively raise awareness of the Foundation in your equine community. The kit contains resources including a Foundation poster, Foundation brochures for horse owners, a display stand to showcase the brochures, pocket-size brochures and more.

The Foundation needs your advocacy and welcomes new Ambassadors. If you would like a kit sent to your practice or farm, or if you wish to sign up to become an Ambassador, contact Jodie Bingham at jbingham@aaep.org or by calling toll-free in the U.S. at 800-443-0177. Tool kits are free of charge.

Foundation allocates \$331,000 in 2011 to industry groups and programs improving the lives of horses

The AAEP Foundation has awarded more than \$331,000 in grants to 16 non-profit organizations and universities in 2011 in addition to conducting seven projects of its own and supporting scholarships for 47 equine veterinary students. These 2011 grant recipients share the Foundation's mission to support equine research, benevolence, education and the equine community.

The Foundation funded a wide range of initiatives working to improve equine welfare in 2011 and 2012. Projects that have benefited from Foundation funding include laminitis research, a lameness research workshop, equine community programs such as the American Youth Horse Council, workshops of the National FFA, and "Equitarian" missions in Costa Rica, Mexico and Mongolia.

The Foundation has again teamed with the Unwanted Horse Coalition to continue Operation Gelding, a program that it helped launch in 2010. Operation Gelding assists clinics in providing free castration services for stallions and has aided in gelding 276 stallions to date.

Meeting the research priorities of equine veterinarians, the Foundation

has committed to fund the Laminitis Research Project and will be hosting its second Equine Lameness Research Workshop in July of 2012.

Investing in future industry technologies, the Foundation is assisting the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine with the development of an Equine SNOMED-CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms).

Groups including the American Quarter Horse Foundation, Morris Animal Foundation, American Youth Horse Council, World Equine Veterinary Association, National FFA, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, Christian Veterinary Mission, The Race For Education and the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation are among others that received 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.

"We are very pleased to once again offer funding to so many worthy pro-



Students across the United States benefited from hands-on experience during dentistry, farriery and horse handling short courses.

grams and organizations," said Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, DACVS, AAEP Foundation Chairman. "The funds awarded by the AAEP Foundation would not be possible without the generous support of our many donors."

For a complete list of grant recipients and Foundation-supported programs, visit www.aepfoundation.org and click on the drop down box "How To Help" and then "Where Your Dollars Go."

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. The 2011 grant recipients were selected by the AAEP Foundation Committee and the Foundation board during their late-summer meetings.

For the past 17 years the AAEP Foundation has allocated more than \$2.2 million in grants to programs that promote the health of horses. Grant applications for 2012 will be available at www.aepfoundation.org in early February.



More than 1,000 equids in Mexico's developing communities were helped during the 2nd Annual Equitarian Workshop supported by the AAEP Foundation.

Memorable 15th Annual Foundation Celebration filled with dancing, bidding and fun

More than 1,000 AAEP members, guests and donors joined together for a night of fun during the 15th Annual Foundation Celebration Nov. 21 in San Antonio. The live and silent auctions during the Celebration raised more than \$80,000 to support research, education, benevolence and the equine community.



A complete list of donors and auction item final bid prices is available online at www.aaepfoundation.org. A special thanks to Celebration sponsor and AAEP Educational Partner Pfizer Animal Health.

Pfizer also announced at the Celebration its pledge to once again match \$25,000 raised for the AAEP Foundation's Equine Memorial Program in 2012. The Equine Memorial Program assists veterinarians in expressing sympathy to clients



whose horses have died or been euthanized through a \$25 or more memorial donation to the AAEP Foundation.

Above, from left: Stuart Meikle, Director of Marketing-Equine for Pfizer, Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, AAEP Foundation Chairman, Laura Primm, Director of Equine for Pfizer, and Susan Shields, Area Sales Manager for Pfizer, during the 15th Annual Foundation Celebration. Right: Guests enjoy viewing and bidding on the many silent auction items during the Celebration.



AAEP attendees tee off to support the AAEP Foundation during Convention

Nearly 70 golfers hit the greens to help horses Nov. 17 during the AAEP Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament, hosted by Merck Animal Health. Held on the rolling hills of the TCP San Antonio, AT&T Canyons Course, the tournament raised nearly \$18,000 for the Foundation's mission to help horses through the support of research, education, benevolence and the equine community. Congratulations to the winning team of Drs. Bryant Craig, Michael Major, Craig Niblett and David White, all graduates of Oklahoma State University.



From left: Golfers Dr. Tom Lenz, Dr. Doug Corey, Dr. Jerry Black, Dr. Tom Brokken and Dr. Scott Palmer with Brett Whitehead, director of Equine/Agriculture Retail Business for Merck Animal Health.

Genetic disease researcher receives Foundation Past Presidents' Research Fellow

University of Minnesota doctoral candidate Annette McCoy, DVM, MS, DACVS, has received the 2011 AAEP Foundation Past Presidents' Research Fellow for her work to advance equine research.

Dr. McCoy was recognized during the Nov. 20 Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture at the AAEP's 57th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The \$5,000 grant is awarded each year to a doctoral or residency student who has made significant progress in the field of equine health care research.

Dr. McCoy's research investigates genetic risk factors for the development of osteochondrosis (OC), a disease manifested as abnormal cartilage development at the end of long bones in horses. This disease is prevalent across many breeds of horses and sur-

gical intervention is generally required to avoid long-term adverse effects in the joint.

Dr. McCoy received a bachelor's degree in animal science in 2002 and a veterinary degree from Michigan State University in 2006. She completed a residency in equine surgery and lameness and earned her master's of clinical science degree from Colorado State University in 2010.

The AAEP Foundation established the Past Presidents' Research Fellow in 2006. The award is made possible through the monetary contributions of AAEP past presidents.

For more information about these scholarship programs, visit the scholarship section of the AAEP Foundation's website at www.aepfoundation.org.



Dr. Annette McCoy receives a check for the Past Presidents' Fellow Nov. 20 from Dr. Bill Moyer, 2011 AAEP President (left), and Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, AAEP Foundation Chairman (right).

Two equine researchers named first recipients of EQUUS Foundation Research Fellows

Two equine researchers were presented with the inaugural 2011 EQUUS Foundation Research Fellows for their work to further veterinary knowledge during the American Association of Equine Practitioners' 57th Annual Convention.

Oklahoma State University doctoral candidate Heidi Banse, DVM, DACVIM, and University of Georgia doctoral candidate Lindsey Helms Boone, DVM, each received a \$5,000 fellow to support their endeavors in equine research during the Nov. 20 Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture. Supported in partnership by the AAEP Foundation and The EQUUS Foundation, the \$5,000 fellows emphasize the importance of assisting equine researchers in their exploration of horse health care topics.

Dr. Banse's doctoral research focuses on the molecular events underlying the development of equine metabolic syndrome (EMS). EMS is a common endocrine disorder of middle-aged

horses characterized by obesity, regional adiposity, insulin resistance and a predisposition to laminitis. Identification of the initiating metabolic events that lead to EMS may allow for earlier diagnosis and treatment. The long-term goal of her research is to identify a preventative intervention for horses with EMS based on improved understanding of the pathophysiology of the condition.

Dr. Boone's doctoral research is centered on the intra-articular use of equine allogeneic bone marrow derived mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) for the treatment of acute and chronic degenerative joint disease in the horse. While regenerative therapy is becoming commonplace in the treatment of many equine musculoskeletal diseases, much remains to be elucidated on its precise mechanisms of action, the full potential of its application and the potential for deleterious side effects. Dr. Boone's research aims to answer many of



From Left: Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, AAEP Foundation Chairman, Dr. Lindsey Boone, Dr. Rick Mitchell, EQUUS Foundation Board member, Dr. Heidi Banse and Dr. Bill Moyer, 2011 AAEP President.

these questions as they pertain to equine joint health.

The EQUUS Foundation (www.equus-foundation.org), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2002, mission is to improve the quality of life of horses, promote the use of horses to enrich the lives of those in need, and educate the public about the horse's unique ability to empower, teach and heal.

Eight students selected to receive Markel Insurance Company/AAEP Foundation scholarships

Eight outstanding veterinary students who have dedicated their careers to the health of horses were awarded \$2,500 scholarships from Markel Insurance Company Inc. and the AAEP Foundation.

The annual scholarships are presented to fourth-year veterinary students who are proven leaders at their veterinary schools, advocates for equine welfare and academic achievers. The scholarship winners were recognized during the Student Program and Luncheon, held at



Scholarship recipients (from left) Christine Sutherland, Kathleen McCarthy and Kati Glass with Dr. Lance Allen, Director of Agri-Risk Services, Inc. - a Markel Company (center), at the 57th Annual Convention.

the AAEP's 57th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

The 2011 scholarship recipients are:

- Ashley Craig, *Tuskegee University*
- Kati Glass, *Texas A&M University*
- Laura Hoholik, *Michigan State University*
- Kathleen McCarthy, *Louisiana State University*
- Bo Rainbow, *University of Florida*
- Erin Shields, *University of Calgary*
- Christine Sutherland, *University of Missouri*
- Katie Wulster, *University of Pennsylvania*



Dr. Lance Allen, veterinarian and Director of Agri-Risk Services, Markel's Midwest office in Kansas City, Mo., noted that honoring excellence among our newest colleagues in veterinary medicine is something that Markel Insurance Company is proud to support.

"We understand and appreciate the roll of veterinarians, especially in relation to our business, and we are pleased to continue more than 20 years of support established by American Live Stock Inc," Dr. Allen said. "As a member of the AAEP for over 30 years, I was particularly pleased and honored to represent Markel in awarding these scholarships to these senior veterinary students with a special interest in equine medicine and surgery."

Veterinary students are nominated for the scholarships by representatives from their colleges with supporting references from AAEP members and clinical instructors.

Markel Insurance Company (www.horseinsurance.com) has over 40 years of expertise in insuring horses and horse businesses. Headquartered in Glen Allen, Va., Markel also has dedicated equine offices located in Warrenton, Va., Lexington, Ky., Kansas City, Mo., and Geneva, Ill. The company is committed to the horse industry and licensed to do business in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Rated "A" (Excellent) by A.M. Best.

Colic Research Symposium facilitates collaboration among top veterinary researchers

The AAEP Foundation has released findings from the 10th International Equine Colic Research Symposium, held July 26-28, 2011, in Indianapolis, Ind. The report sums up future objectives identified by leading researchers of equine colic.

The report is now available at www.aaepfoundation.org in the "Research Programs" section of the website under the "Programs/Events" drop down box. Each section of the report includes a statement of issues and a list of research priorities.

The Symposium, hosted by the AAEP Foundation, provided an opportunity for practitioners and researchers to discuss the future of equine colic research. Held this year in conjunction with the AAEP's 2011 Focus on Colic meeting, the Symposium alternates every

three years between Europe and North America. It is designed to bring together leading researchers, practitioners, residents and graduate students to share knowledge about equine colic, the leading cause of premature death in horses. A total of 45 oral presentations and 72 poster presentations were featured during this year's Symposium.

Sponsors for the Symposium included presenting sponsor Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. and supporting sponsors: American Quarter Horse Foundation, British Equine Veterinary Association, Bioniche Animal Health, USA, Inc., Equine Feed Oat Project, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, The Horse Trust, Merck Animal Health, Morris Animal Foundation, North American Equine Ranching Information Council, Nutramax



Dr. Charlotte Hopster-Iverson of Germany explains her poster to Dr. Hoyt Cheramie during the Colic Symposium in July.

Laboratories, Inc., Nutrena, and Platinum Performance

If you wish to support equine research or other similar research workshops, visit www.aaepfoundation.org or call (859) 233-0147.

2012 calendars are great holiday gifts and valuable marketing tools

The 2012 AAEP Calendar features the fine art photography of John S. Hockensmith, a photographer who has spent his career capturing the beauty and athleticism of horses through the eye of the camera.

Thank your clients and promote your practice through the gift of a calendar. This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to horse health and the efforts to help horses through the AAEP Foundation. A generous portion of the proceeds from your calendar order will be donated to the Foundation.

To learn more or to place your order, visit the Foundation website at www.aaepfoundation.org and click on the "Programs/Events" drop down box and then click on "Calendar Program."



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

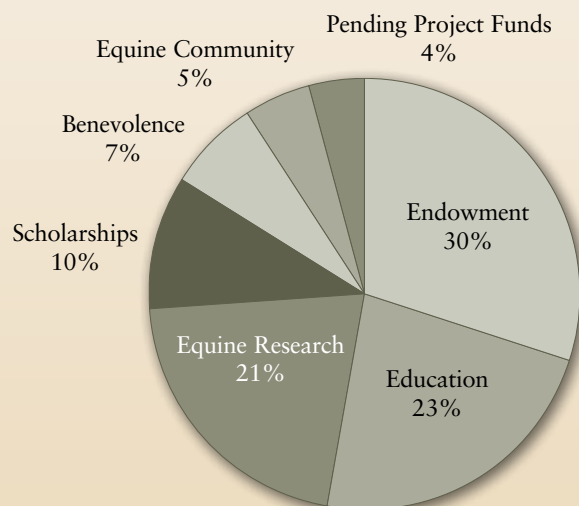
The Foundation has allocated more than \$2.2 million to support these

programs. One hundred percent of all donations directly help horses and their care takers and are not used for any administration costs 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 2011.

Where your gifts went in 2011



AAEP FOUNDATION, INC.

4075 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
TEL (800) 443-0177 (U.S. & Canada)
TEL (859) 233-0147
FAX (859) 233-1968
www.aaepfoundation.org

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William A. Rood, DVM, JD

FOUNDATION STAFF

Keith Kleine
Director of Industry Relations
kkleine@aaep.org

Jodie Bingham
Development Coordinator
jbingham@aaep.org

Pam Shook
Programs Coordinator
pshook@aaep.org



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Join the Legacy Society with a Planned Gift

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.

Visit online at www.aepfoundation.org and click on the "Create a Legacy." 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."

Support the AAEP Foundation with your 2011 year-end donation

As you contemplate your 2011 year-end tax planning, we hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to the AAEP Foundation.

When you give to the AAEP Foundation you help us:

- Award scholarships for equine veterinary students
- Support education for AAEP members and their clients
- Fund equine research

You can donate to the AAEP Foundation through an annual gift, memorial or honorary gift, planned gift, or a contribution toward next year's Foundation auctions.

This year, some may take advantage of the benefits of rolling over an IRA as a donation. Our Foundation website spells out that option under the section called "Discover the Benefits of Giving Wisely."

Giving is easy and rewarding. You can give online at www.aepfoundation.org, by mail at AAEP Foundation, 4075 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY, 40511, or by phone, toll-free in the U.S. at (800) 443-0177. For more information on giving, contact the Foundation at (859) 233-0147.

The AAEP Foundation thanks you for your support in "Helping Us Help Horses."