

NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of the AAEP Foundation



New Orleans Police Department Mounted Patrol receives donation of new saddles and tack from the AAEP Foundation and others

The Mounted Division of the New Orleans Police Department received a donation of 20 saddles, bridles and other equine equipment during a special presentation at the New Orleans Police Department stables in City Park on Friday, Feb. 2. The donation was made by the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association's (LVMA) Equine Committee and Tucker Saddlery, located in Yoakum, Texas.

Following hurricane Katrina in 2005, both the AAEP Foundation and LVMA Equine Committee formed equine disaster relief funds to help horses and their caretakers. Veterinarians, horse owners, equine organizations and corporations from across the country answered the call and donated generously to these two groups. Since that time, both organizations have been helping horses and their caretakers through various feed and medical relief efforts throughout the Gulf Region.

"Donors from across the country should be thanked for the support and willingness to help horses," said AAEP Foundation chairman Nat White, DVM. "We are delighted to be able to give back to the New Orleans Mounted Patrol through this donation and we thank the many partners and their donors that have helped us to be able to do this for such an important and proud symbol of New Orleans."

Since the funds inception in 2004, more than \$161,000 has been raised for the AAEP Foundation Equine Disaster Relief Fund, and more than \$108,000 has been

allotted to efforts in the Gulf Region. Donations are still being accepted and funding is still available for equine disaster relief. For more information on how to apply for disaster relief funds, please visit www.aaepfoundation.org and click on the "Funding/Grants" link under the Grants/Scholarships drop-down menu or contact Leigh-Ann Sexton, development coordinator, at (800) 443-0177 (within the U.S.) or (859) 233-0147.



Making the presentation on behalf of the AAEP Foundation and LVMA Equine Committee is Gary Norwood, DVM. Pictured from left to right is: Jay Addison, DVM (LVMA Equine Committee); Warren Riley (N.O.P.D. Superintendent); Cpt. Clarence Hebert (Mounted/K-9 Division Commander); Chris Light (Tucker Saddlery); and Joey Templet (SACS Western Store).

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AAEP Foundation/American Live Stock Insurance Co. announces 2006 scholarship recipients

Since 1989, the American Live Stock Insurance Company (ALSIC) has been providing scholarships to veterinary students. Six years ago, ALSIC joined together with the AAEP Foundation to offer eight, \$2,500 scholarships to fourth-year veterinary students who have shown a strong desire to pursue a career in equine medicine. Since its inception, a total of 122 students have received scholarships, with total funding of nearly \$240,000. In addition to academic excellence, recipients are selected based on leadership ability and involvement in activities that benefit the health and welfare of the horse. Each accredited college of veterinary medicine may nominate one student.

For more information on this or other Foundation scholarship programs, please visit the Foundation Web site, www.aaepfoundation.org, and click on the Grants/Scholarships drop-down menu.

Congratulations to the 2006 ALSIC/AAEP Foundation scholarship recipients!

Top, from left: Jeremiah Easley - *Virginia-Maryland Regional College*, Johanna Efenbein - *University of Florida*, Melissa Fagerlin - *Auburn University*, Middle: Elizabeth Fortier - *Tufts University*, Thera L. Fox - *University of Saskatchewan (WCVM)*, Lauren Javernick - *Colorado State University*, Bottom: Katie Seabaugh - *Washington State University*, Jennifer Selvig - *University of Minnesota*



Research Fellow recipient shows appreciation

The following is an excerpt of a letter written to the AAEP Foundation from Dr. Jennifer Barrett after she received the first-ever Research Fellow. The goal of this scholarship is to supplement post-graduate and residency research fellowship salaries and benefits.

I feel very honored and grateful to receive the AAEP Foundation's Research Fellow. I feel especially honored that this is the first year this award is being offered. This award provides generous support for equine practitioners who are motivated toward a career in research, and I hope that it fosters more interest in this arena. I truly recognize the importance of supporting equine research, and I hope to pursue my research goals as a faculty member at a veterinary college very soon. I sincerely appreciate the chance to attend the AAEP Annual Convention. Dr. White's Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art lecture so aptly defined the importance of continuing research in equine health. Receiving this award on the morning of his lecture is by far a career high point for me.

Thank you ever so much,

Jennifer G. Barrett, DVM, Ph.D

The AAEP Foundation is currently accepting applications for this year's Research Fellow. The application deadline is July 30.



Pictured from left to right: Tom Brokken, DVM, AAEP Foundation immediate past president; Jennifer Barrett, DVM, Ph.D. and Nat White, II, DVM, AAEP Foundation Advisory Committee chairman.

Celebration's 10th anniversary marks record fundraiser for Foundation

The AAEP Foundation would like to thank all of the donors and buyers for helping with the 10th Anniversary of the AAEP Foundation Celebration and Benefit Auction held in San Antonio, Texas, last December. The Foundation set a fundraising record for the event. Hosted during the AAEP's 52nd Annual Convention, the 2006 auction raised more than \$160,000 for the Foundation, surpassing 2005's auction proceeds by more than \$45,000. With tables decorated with southwestern table runners, an enthusiastic auctioneer and live music from Exile, the event came to life with everyone enjoying themselves and reaching deep to help us help horses. The silent auction room boasted more than 200 items, including many one-of-a-kind items such as handmade jewelry, equine

related prints, historical equine books and even a pair of handmade spurs and a bit. The live auction featured 12 items including vacation and entertainment packages, educational programs, a wonderful equine bronze, and a John Deere Gator™, donated by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and purchased by Steve and Jo Burns.

Each year the silent and live auctions raise funds to support the AAEP Foundation, whose mission is to improve the health and welfare of the horse through support of research, education and benevolence and the equine community. Thank you to all contributors to the 2006 auction and we hope to see you in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 4, 2007 for an all-new and exciting venue for the Celebration!



Guests enjoy browsing the many items that were on display at the 2006 Foundation Celebration.

Attention AAEP members: Help us help horses when renewing your dues

There is an easy way for AAEP members to support the AAEP Foundation. Make a voluntary contribution with your AAEP membership dues. Whether renewing online, by mail or by fax, just pick the amount you want to donate and you will support the Foundation's research, education and benevolent programs. To learn more about the AAEP Foundation and how you can help us help horses, visit www.aeepfoundation.org.

Named Scholarship program presents new opportunity for donors

The Named Scholarship is a new way for donors to help equine veterinary students through both the AAEP Foundation and their favorite university's college of veterinary medicine. This brand new scholarship is designed to encourage and support equine veterinary studies and minimize student debt at graduation by providing financial aid to students in their second through fourth years of veterinary school.

Donors are encouraged to make a \$2,000 minimum donation to the AAEP Foundation, that in turn will be directed to a school of their choice. In addition to gaining donor credit from both the Foundation and school, donors also may

name this scholarship. Donors are encouraged to name the scholarship in honor of a friend, colleague or even themselves or their family. Corporations also are encouraged to do the same. Naming examples include: AAEP Foundation (company name) Scholarship or the AAEP Foundation (name) Family Scholarship or the AAEP Foundation (name) Memorial Scholarship.

This program will benefit donors by building a relationship with students who may later become industry leaders, seek employment or use their products. Donations should be made directly to the AAEP Foundation and the full amount will be given to the selected institution.

The donor gets to select the recipient institution and the name for the scholarship. Applicants must meet AAEP Foundation eligibility and criteria guidelines, and the school will participate in the selection process.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or making a Named Scholarship, visit the AAEP Foundation Web site, www.aeepfoundation.org, and click on the Grants/Scholarships dropdown menu or contact Leigh-Ann Sexton, development coordinator, at (859) 233-0147 or (800) 443-0177 (within the U.S.).

Ensuring a bright future for equine research

In the past two decades, huge advances have been made in our understanding of many equine diseases. But we have a lot more to learn before we can truly improve the way many of these diseases are prevented or treated. One simply needs to consider the impact that laminitis had on Barbaro, a horse who captured everyone's imagination, or the effect that Equine Herpesvirus-1 infections have had up and down the East Coast in the past few months. While these diseases might be the most obvious at this time, they are not necessarily the most devastating to horses or the equine industry. Colic, osteoarthritis, neonatal septicemia, infertility, respiratory disease, laryngeal hemiplegia . . . the list of diseases needing attention goes on and on.

How are we going to address these diseases that threaten the health of our horses and the viability of the equine industry? How are we going to deal with new diseases and conditions as they arise? What are we going to do when diseases we thought were conquered suddenly reappear? More importantly, who is going to find the answers and solve these riddles?



This latter question is probably the most important and most pressing problem facing horse owners because it reflects an underlying problem in our country today. The simple fact is that fewer and fewer young people in the United States are pursuing careers in science. The situation is very similar in veterinary medicine, as the vast majority of new graduates choose veterinary practice, rather than considering careers in teaching and research. While renewed interest in post-graduate clinical training programs (internships and residencies) appears to be on the rise, these individuals are pursuing board certification to start careers as clinical specialists rather than careers as researchers. Unless there is a drastic shift within the next decade, veterinary science as a whole,

and specifically veterinary research as we know it, risks extinction. This is particularly true at academic institutions where funding is not sufficient to support a career directed solely at equine research.

Equine groups and industry representatives need to make a concerted effort to influence state and federal legislators about the need for funding equine medical research.

To address this situation in equine-related fields, we must recognize two things. First, research drives progress, and this cannot happen if we rest on recent successes. Over the past two decades, the expectations of our clients have risen dramatically and will continue to increase in the future. Second, we must take the steps necessary to make science attractive to the bright, young people in our schools, and especially our new graduates. To do so will require both structured programs and money.

Educators and researchers need the opportunity to get more undergraduate veterinary students actively involved in research so they can experience the excitement that accompanies new discoveries. In order to make research more attractive to new veterinary graduates, a high priority must be the establishment of new, well-paying research fellowships for PhD and post-doctoral training programs. The salaries associated with these fellowships must keep pace with salaries paid by the National Institutes of Health to physicians in similar training programs. In the past, graduate students were plentiful and were able to pursue their training on relatively low stipends. Recently, though, stipends have not kept up with the rising cost of living, a fact that makes it easy for new graduates to choose more lucrative alternatives.

Furthermore, horse owners and equine-related industries must invest in equine research funding to enable investigators

to develop research programs directed at diseases affecting the horse. Progress will only be made when there is sufficient support to establish research programs that have appropriately trained people and the technical resources needed to be successful in the competitive environment of research. A career in research now has to be both exciting and rewarding; one out of two will no longer work.

The equine veterinary community needs your help in this endeavor. Donations to the Morris Animal Foundation (www.morrisanimalfoundation.org), Grayson Jockey-Club Research Foundation (www.grayson-jockeyclub.org); American Quarter Horse Foundation (www.aqha.com/foundation), American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation, Inc. (www.aaepfoundation.org) or your favorite university with a college of veterinary medicine will help support new equine research fellowships and funding of research programs. Equine groups and industry representatives need to make a concerted effort to influence state and federal legislators about the need for funding equine medical research.

Please contact the AAEP Foundation (www.aaepfoundation.org) for information about how to make donations for equine research or call (800) 443-0177 (within the U.S.) or (859) 233-0147. This is just one of the many efforts that the AAEP is coordinating on behalf of the industry through the Equine Research Coordination Group (ERCG), which is comprised of researchers and organizations that support equine research. Organized last year with a mission of advancing the health and welfare of horses, the ERCG promotes 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.

Submitted on behalf of the Equine Research Coordination Group.

Thank you to our 2006 donors

The Foundation sincerely thanks all AAEP members, horse owners, individuals, equine industry organizations and corporate partners who supported its efforts to help the horse in 2006. Through an auction donation or purchase, equine memorial donation or general donation, your support makes a difference. Thank you so very much!

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continued on back.

American Youth Horse Council promotes equine welfare and youth leadership

Equine welfare was a recurrent theme at the American Youth Horse Council's 2007 National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium held in Denver, Colo., March 9 - 11, 2007.

"AYHC's board has made a commitment to make equine welfare education to the youth horse industry a priority," said Cindy Schonholtz, AYHC executive director. A grant from the AAEP Foundation allowed AYHC to expand the equine welfare education program. The extensive information offered to symposium attendees included a session sponsored by the Foundation titled "The Unwanted Horse," which was presented by Dr. Tom Lenz, past president of AAEP and chair of the Unwanted Horse Coalition, which is now under the direction of the American Horse Council. Dr. Lenz shared with the student leaders, adult leaders of youth horse programs and youth horse industry professionals the importance of addressing the issue of unwanted horses in the U.S. The session was the highest rated program on the schedule by participants.

AYHC also wanted to include the 70 youth who were in attendance at the symposium. Therefore, the youth were asked to work together in groups to create presentations titled "Promoting Equine Welfare in Your Community" specifically



Dr. Tom Lenz presented "The Unwanted Horse," to attendees during the 2007 National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium.

addressing the unwanted horse. The presentations were given at the final breakfast and the youth showed great insight and wonderful ideas on how to educate others and promote equine welfare. In addition to their project, the youth in attendance were able to participate in wet labs presented by the Colorado State University student AAEP chapter and funded by an AAEP Foundation grant. CSU AAEP Chapter President Casey Gruber headed up the effort, and the youth were able to see many parts of the horse, including a full digestive system. It was a hit with the attendees, and the symposium was a great success.

Anne Dadds named research coordinator; research funds needed to help horses

The AAEP welcomes Anne Dadds, who joined the AAEP staff as research coordinator in early January. She has been a freelance writer and publicist in the Thoroughbred industry for the past 10 years, including three years as managing editor of the *Breeders' Cup Biographies Book*. Prior to that she worked at a number of trade publications, including *Daily Racing Form*, *Thoroughbred Times* and *The Thoroughbred Record*.

In the newly created part-time position of research coordinator, Anne will be promoting the need for increased funding for equine research and additional researchers on behalf of the Equine Research Coordination Group (ERCG). To learn more about the ERCG, its efforts and how a gift can help equine research, please



visit the AAEP Foundation's Web site at www.aepfoundation.org and click on the "ERCG" link.

Anne and the ERCG are currently seeking "success stories" that illustrate the importance of research and innovation in producing healthier horses. Success stories are welcome from horse owners, organizations, Foundation donors and veterinarians. She also is updating www.equineresearch.net, an equine research listing Web site, and asks that veterinary schools and funding organizations and agencies contact her with their currently funded projects.

Anne can be contacted at the AAEP office at adadds@aaep.org, by calling the AAEP office at (859) 233-0147 or toll-free in the U.S. at (800) 443-0177.

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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.

Calendar and greeting card program sales hit record high

The AAEP Foundation would like to thank the many of you who purchased 2007 AAEP calendars and 2006 greeting cards. Sales were up nearly five percent compared to last year. This is a tremendous increase. Since the inception of this program in 2000, each year AAEP members, their clients and the equine community help make these programs a success.

For more information on how you can purchase calendars or greeting cards, visit the AAEP Foundation Web site, www.aaepfoundation.org, and click on the Programs/Events drop-down menu or contact Leigh-Ann Sexton, development coordinator, at (859) 233-0147 or e-mail lasexton@aaep.org.



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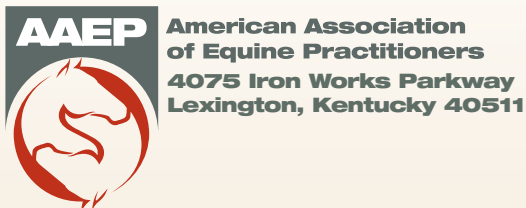
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