Health Info To Go

BY KIMBERLY S. BROWN AND CHRISTY WEST

The 52nd annual convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners was heralded as one of the best in recent years for practical, take-home information. It was held Dec. 2-6 in San Antonio, Texas, and set an attendance record with 6,842 veterinarians, guests, and exhibitors. The previous attendance record of 6,284 was set at the 2004 convention in Denver, Colo.

The 2007 AAEP Executive Committee and new members of the board of directors took office Dec. 5. The members of the Executive Committee are: Doug Corey, DVM, Adams, Ore., president; Eleanor M. Green, DVM, Gainesville, Fla., president-elect; Harry Werner, VMD, North Granby, Conn., vice president; Tom Brokken, DVM, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., immediate past president; and R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., DVM, Free Union, Va., treasurer.

New members of the board of directors are: Jim Morehead, DVM, Dan Wilson, DVM, Julie Wilson, DVM, Rustin Moore, DVM, and David Whitaker, PhD, Equine Industry Board Member.

Several awards were presented during the President's Luncheon on Dec. 5. Honorees were Claude A. Ragle, DVM, Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, and John E. Madigan, DVM, Distinguished Service awards; J. Clyde Johnson, VMD, and Charles D. Vail, DVM, Distinguished Life Members; and Thomas J. Divers, DVM, Distinguished Educator Award.

Distinguished colic researcher Nat A. White II, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, received the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture trophy and presented "Equine Colic: A Real Pain in the Gut."

The seventh annual day of seminars for horse owners, called the Healthy Horses Workshop, attracted 303 attendees. The annual live and silent auctions held during the Foundation Celebration raised more than $165,000 to benefit programs that help the horse.

The AAEP, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than five million horse owners through its over 9,000 members worldwide.

Following are short articles from the AAEP. Full versions of these articles, plus additional topics, will be available on The Horse.com in a PDF downloadable format for the first time this year, thanks to sponsor OCD Equine (www.OCDequine.com).

KIMBERLY S. BROWN

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The 2006 AAEP Convention Program Chairman Dr. Doug Corey arranged to have Charro Jerry Diaz and his horse Grano d'Oro entertain at the opening ceremony for a record crowd of vets, students, and guests.

Kester News Hour

For many years, The Horse has reported the highlights of the Kester News Hour from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) annual convention (held most recently on Dec. 2-6, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas). This year, along with bringing you brief reports on the year's hot topics in veterinary medicine, we bid farewell to two veterinarians who made their final appearances as Kester News Hour presenters—Larry Bramlage, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, a partner in Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky., and John Madigan, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of California, Davis. Each was honored with the AAEP's Distinguished Service Award for eight years of presenting this popular news session.

The Kester News Hour will continue to grace the AAEP convention program, but the identity of next year's presenters has not yet been announced. Following are synopses of the studies and information discussed at the 2006 Kester News Hour.

Oxygen Therapy for Skin Grafts

In contrast with its reputation for accel-

erating healing of all kinds of maladies, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is actually bad for healing skin grafts, according to a study presented at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) meeting in October. Bramlage said the study evaluated 4-cm cannon bone wounds created for the study; after skin grafting, horses had daily one-hour treatments for seven days.

Researchers found that wounds treated with HBOT developed less granulation tissue, more edema (fluid swelling), more inflammation, less neovascularization (growth of new blood vessels into the wound area), and the skin grafts were less viable than wounds not treated with HBOT.

Stacking of Pain Medications

If one pain medication is good, two is not better, according to the results of two studies presented by Bramlage and Madigan. One study published in the American Journal of Veterinary Research (AJVR) evaluated the effects of phenylbutazone (Bute) alone or in combination with flunixin meglumine (Banamine) on blood protein concentrations. Bute alone had no effect on blood protein, but when Banamine was added, there was a significant drop in protein.

"This doesn't mean you can't use (this drug combination), but it is a potentially detrimental combination for routine daily use," Bramlage commented. "One horse died in this study from low protein. Using Bute and Banamine for an extended period of time really causes the gut to lose protein. It's a significant loss, much more than I realized." (For more information see www.TheHorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=7451.)

Fusing Hocks

When a horse has lameness originating in the lower hock joint (a very low-motion joint compared to the upper hock joints), fusion (also called arthrodesis or immobilization) of this joint can restore soundness in some cases. Bramlage reported on an AJVR study that used intra-articular (within the joint) administration of ethyl alcohol to fuse the tarsometatarsal hock joints in eight healthy horses.

He reported that eight hocks had fused by four months, and 15 of 16 had fused at 12 months. Most importantly, the horses were pain-free during fusion.

However, the procedure is not without risk. Bramlage warned: "You really need to know with contrast media that the joints don't communicate (that something injected into one joint will not end up in the adjacent joint). If you try to fuse and there is communication with the top joints, the horse gets very sore and you lose him. This procedure needs to be preceded by a contrast media study (which will determine if there is joint communication)."

KIMBERLY S. BROWN

After eight years of presenting the Kester News Hour at the convention, Drs. John Madigan (left) and Larry Bramlage are handing over the reins.

Radiographic Lesions vs. Racing Performance

Nobody's perfect, but a lot of us do quite well anyway. Racehorses are no different, reported Bramlage in discussing a study published in the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science (JEVS). The study evaluated racing performance as affected by specific radiographic abnormalities seen in 348 Thoroughbred yearlings offered for sale in Texas.

There was no difference in performance between horses with lesions and those without, in terms of number of starts and average earnings per start at two and three years of age. The most common lesions included bone cysts in several locations and chips off the long pastern bone.

"If you see a lesion, there might be a problem, but you can't rule them all out," said Bramlage. "If you fault every horse that's got a lesion, you'll throw away a lot of really good horses. The statistics show you're making a mistake."

He also noted that a weakness of the study was that it didn't account for treatment of lesions. In other words, horses with lesions might have done fine because their lesions were treated, not because the lesions had no effect.

Sesamoid Fractures vs. Racing Performance

Fractures of the proximal sesamoid bones (small bones behind the fetlock) are no big deal, unless the fracture is in the medial (inside) sesamoid of a forelimb, reported Bramlage. Treatment is simply to surgically remove the loose fractured bits of the sesamoid. The ACVS study evaluated race performance (starts, earnings, and average earnings per start) in affected Thoroughbreds and found that excluding medial forelimb sesamoid fractures, post-operative performance was statistically identical to pre-injury performance.

Numerically, the study found that 83% of horses with hind limb fracture cases returned to racing, as did 100% of horses with lateral forelimb sesamoid fractures, but only 47% of horses with medial forelimb sesamoid fractures returned to racing. Suspensory desmitis (inflammation of the suspensory ligament) decreased the likelihood of success, he added.

The study also looked at performance of horses that hadn't raced before injury and surgery; 84% of treated horses raced after surgery, compared to 78% of their maternal siblings that had not experienced that injury and surgery.

"This gives you some way to look at radiographs and assess horses with sesamoid fractures," he commented. "If it's not the medial sesamoid of the forelimb, you can virtually take them out without impeding the horse's performance."

Public Policy on Veterinary Issues

Bramlage noted that the AAEP has a nationwide political action network, which provides a suggested message on issues and meets with legislators on behalf of equine veterinarians as needed. If you are an equine veterinarian andwould like to contact a legislator on an issue, he suggested you contact Keith Kleine at AAEP (859/233-0147 or kkleine@aaep.org) for addresses and numbers.

"The close ones (legislative battles) go to those who are heard," he commented. "I've

learned they either count or weigh numbers of responses on issues, so please get involved. E-mail congressmen or senators—unless we speak up, we won't be heard."

Electromagnetic Therapy

"This question comes up for us all the time with tendon problems—people ask if we should use blue boot, gold boot, or whatever electromagnetic boot," commented Bramlage. He discussed an AJVR laboratory study of microcurrent electrical stimulation of equine tenocytes (tendon cells) in culture.

"It stimulated cell proliferation initially, but rapidly increased cell death with multiple applications (three or more)," he said of the therapy. "Death of tenocytes is an undesirable effect. Their place is taken by fibroblasts, which gives you a tendon that's more like string than a rubber band—when you stress it, it tears. That's one reason why bowed tendons are so difficult, especially in racehorses. So if someone asks you if he should put an electromagnetic coil on his horse, say no."

Shock Wave Therapy

"There were three really good papers published on shock wave this year; it's now been around long enough to get some substantial work on it," said Bramlage.

The first study (published in AJVR) looked at the effect of shock wave therapy on bone at the origin of the suspensory apparatus in the forelimb, and it examined the therapy's impact on the hind limb splint bones (fourth metatarsal). Six normal horses received 2,000 shocks twice; researchers found an increased number of osteoblasts (cells that build new bone) in areas where osteoblasts were already present.

"Shock wave therapy didn't make (osteoblasts) out of nothing—they have to already have a healing mechanism going," Bramlage commented. The effect was significant in the forelimb suspensory insertion, but not in the hind splint bone; he noted that the effect of shock wave therapy does not go very deep into bone.

The second study he mentioned was published in Veterinary Comparative Orthopedics and Traumatology, and it evaluated shock wave therapy's effects on collagenase (a type of enzyme)-induced superficial digital flexor tendonitis. Horses were shocked at three, seven, and 10 weeks after injury was induced, and there was no statistical difference between treated and untreated horses in clinical lameness score or ultrasound exam score. The only difference was that shocked tendons had better neovascularization (growth of new blood vessels into the injured area).

Thirdly, an ACVS study on shock wave treatment of collagenase-induced desmitis of the inferior check ligament also found no significant effect. Horses were shocked at three, six, and nine weeks after injury, and a small segment of check ligament was harvested at 15 weeks. "There was no difference between control and treated horses in any parameter," Bramlage said. "(Shock wave therapy) is not nearly as effective as we had hoped for tendons and ligaments. Its best application appears to be where they insert into bone."

Diagnostic Imaging

Bone cysts and scintigraphy Based on a study reported in the 2006 ACVS proceedings, Bramlage reported that nuclear scintigraphy (often called bone scanning) was not dependable for evaluating any aspect of osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Bone cysts and OCD of fetlocks, hocks, shoulders, and stifles were examined; only seven of 32 OCD lesions and neither of two cysts were identifiable on scintigraphic examination.

"Nuclear scintigraphy was not only not specific, it was sometimes harmful in that you would get hot spots when there was no lameness and you would get lameness when there were no hot spots (which is most often the case)," he said.

Ultrasound and the sacroiliac region Bramlage discussed a study published in Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound that he said was a "very good anatomic review" of the equine sacroiliac region (the area where the pelvis attaches to the spine) and how to examine this area using ultrasound. Focal hypoechoic areas (regions in which echoes are weaker and fewer than in surrounding regions), decreased linear (muscle) fiber patterns, and wide variability in ligament height and cross-sectional measurements can make diagnosis of problems in this area difficult, he summarized.

"It's probably better to work on and rule out all the other areas first," he commented. He recommended exercising caution in using nerve blocks in this area, as too much blocking can result in temporary hind limb paralysis.

MRI vs. ultrasound Another study, this one published in the Equine Veterinary Journal, compared magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to ultrasonography for evaluating the origin of the suspensory ligament. The verdict: MRI correlates better with histology (tissue examination) than ultrasound.

"It's tough to correlate the ultrasound picture with the degree of clinical signs," commented Bramlage. "Some horses have ultrasound pictures that don't look good but are sound, and vice versa. MRI is the new wave; it's relatively expensive and certainly more difficult than ultrasound to do, but this showed that if you get that really nonresponsive case, you might have to do it."

Kester Tips of the Hat

Bramlage offered a Kester Tip of the Hat salute to Madigan, a recipient of the 2006 AVMA Animal Welfare Award, as well as to all AAEP On-Call participants and those who provided expert information on the injuries suffered by Barbaro during the Preakness Stakes in May 2006. He showed a video compilation of news clips describing Barbaro's treatment and prognosis featuring the colt's primary veterinarian, Dean Richardson, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, chief of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, and several other veterinarians.

"Our members have done a very good job of telling the public where we are," Bramlage praised. "You all deserve a pat on the back for how the public relations of this thing was handled."

Foal Exercise

Just how much does a foal run around a pasture? Bramlage described an AJVR study that used Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technology to track the movement of foals 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

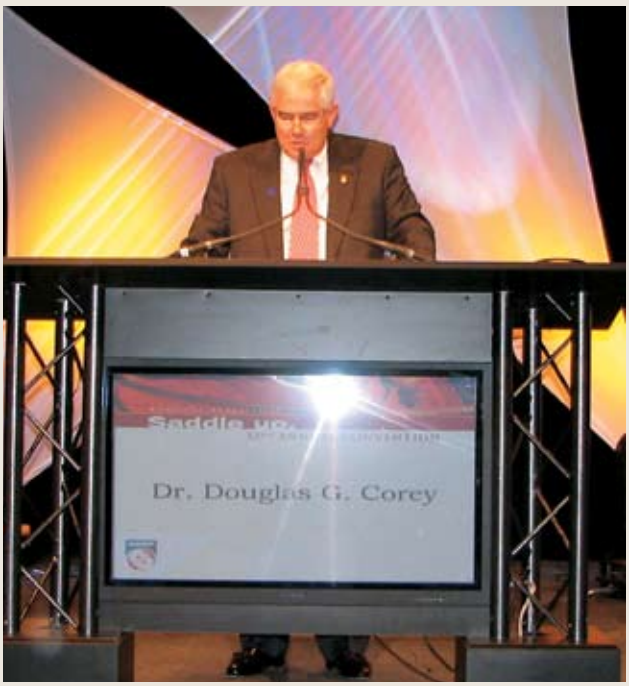
The study found that newborn foals spent 0.5% of their time cantering, 10% walking, 34% standing still, 0.2% rolling, 32% grazing, and 21.6% laying down. "They spent twice as much time moving around at a force rate (moving purposefully in a direction, compared to gradual grazing-type movement) than at any other month of their lives," said Bramlage.

The study also looked at movement of foals kept in pastures for differing amounts of time; it found a compensatory increase in activity in foals turned out that had been stalled for part of the day.

The optimal amount of exercise to develop a sound, strong skeleton has been discussed and studied a great deal, but few solid answers exist. "You have to worry about that premature skeleton; if you restrict

them part of the day and have that compensatory increase, does that do harm?" asked Bramlage.

Forced exercise has been found effective in some studies, but Bramlage reported that this approach can be dangerous. "One group put foals on a treadmill from weaning to one year of age, and over half had to have arthroscopy," he said. "It's like drying your clothes with a blowtorch—if you get just over the edge, you're done."



KIMBERLY S. BROWN

Dr. Doug Corey became AAEP President for 2007 after putting together the program for the 2006 AAEP Convention.

Minerals, Vitamins, and Supplements for Osteoarthritis

Bramlage discussed a human study (published in Bone and Joint) of the effects of selenium, glucosamine, and chondroitin sulfate on osteoarthritis of the knee. The five-year randomized, controlled trial of 1,258 patients over 40 years old found that for mild pain, Celebrex (celecoxib, a COX-2-specific inhibiting arthritis medication) was more effective than a combination of glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate. But for moderate pain, this combination was 79.2% more effective than Celebrex.

Patients were also divided into high-, medium-, and low-selenium groups based on blood levels of this mineral. One notable finding was that the high-selenium group had 40% less risk of arthritic changes in the knee, and for each increase of 0.1 ppm, the odds of knee arthritis decreased 15-20%, Bramlage noted.

"This might have implications for racehorses and broodmares as well as humans," he said. However, caution should be exercised when supplementing selenium, as too much selenium can be at least as bad as too little.

Bramlage discussed another human study appearing in Bone and Joint with possible equine implications—a study of vitamin D, supplemental calcium, and biphosphonates used in humans to combat osteoporosis.

"Biphosphonates are osteoclast disablers," he explained—they inhibit cells that break down bone. While this sounds like a universally good thing, it might not be; bone breaks down and remodels in response to stresses all the time. When osteoclasts are disabled, as in this study of nursing home patients, osteonecrosis (death of areas of bone) can be the result. Ninety-four percent of 368 patients with jaw osteonecrosis were taking biphosphonates.

As for their effect on bone mass, it wasn't great; patients taking them had an 8% increase in bone mass, while patients on vitamin D and calcium had a 28% increase in bone mass.

"Biphosphonate (such as Tildren, which has been suggested for treating navicular disease) doesn't just cut down osteoclasts as they relate to bone loss, it also inhibits them as part of the bone remodeling process in response to exercise as well," Bramlage commented. "It's probably not going to disable the navicular bone to the point of sequestrum (breaking off a piece), but I'm a little afraid of it in the racehorse."

Lidocaine

"Lidocaine seems to be our new DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide, a powerful anti-inflammatory agent); people are using it for all kinds of things," Bramlage commented as he introduced a study of the drug. The article in Veterinary Surgery investigated using a continuous infusion of lidocaine to treat ileus, an accumulation of fluid in a dysfunctional bowel.

In refluxing horses (those that expel fluid when a tube is passed into their stomachs), 65% stopped refluxing within thirty hours of the start of lidocaine treatment, compared to 27% of control horses.

"The mechanism is a little unclear; but if you can reduce sympathetic tone (activity of one division of the nervous system) and increase parasympathetic tone (activity of the other division of the nervous system, the one controlling abdominal organs), you can increase (gut) motility," Bramlage said. He also noted that some papers had demonstrated anti-inflammatory, anti-endotoxic, and analgesic (pain-killing) effects of lidocaine.

Isolation Ward Hygiene

There were few other studies Bramlage didn't have time to discuss, but The Horse is happy to be able to bring them to you. The first of these dealt with bacteria levels using different human foot hygiene protocols at equine hospitals—using disinfectant footbaths and disinfectant-saturated mats (containing various disinfectants) with and without disposable shoe covers.

"Boots made no difference (in the number of bacteria on the floors)," noted Bramlage. "It was the dipping of the feet that made a difference, but less of a difference than was expected." (For more information see www.TheHorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=6949.)

Bears Building Bones

"When bears hibernate, why do they not experience severe osteopenia (loss of calcium and density from bones)?" asked Bramlage. "They do experience some osteopenia, but they recover bone mass very quickly because of high circulating levels of parathyroid hormone (according to a study from Bone and Joint). Can we use that to accelerate bone response to exercise in horses? Perhaps. It is approved in people, but it might be carcinogenic, and it's expensive—$8,000 per year for a human dose, and $40,000 per year for a horse."

Throat Problems

Horses that make a roaring sound or displace their soft palates during exercise are often considered for surgical correction. Bramlage discussed an article in Veterinary Surgery that answered the question, "Do you always need to do a ventriculectomy (remove the lining of the ventricles in the larynx) when you do a laryngeal prosthesis (also called a tieback procedure)?"

"The surgical approach generally destroys the innervation (nerve supply) and function of the cricothyroid muscle, which paralyzes the vocal fold and affects

respiration," explained Bramlage. So it is helpful to do a ventriculectomy, he concluded.

Early Fracture Fixation Reduces Infection

In a study of laboratory rats published in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, those with limb and head trauma that did not have their injuries fixated (set) were much more likely to have bacteria cultured from their organs (10 of 14 rats) than either rats with no trauma (2/10) or those with fractures that were fixated (2/11).

"This was meant to imitate results from an auto accident, but it also demonstrates that fractures are a preferred site for contamination," Bramlage commented. Early fixation of fractures should help keep bacteria from colonizing the fracture site.

Laryngeal Hemiplegia (Roaring) in Heavy Horses

Another study Bramlage discussed (published in Veterinary Surgery) found an overall prevalence of permanent laryngeal hemiplegia (partial or complete paralysis of the laryngeal cartilages in the airway) in 35% of 183 competition draft horses at a show. Forty-two percent of Belgians were affected, as were 31% of Percherons and 17% of Clydesdales.

"There was more mucus observed in the tracheas of paralyzed horses, and size was a predisposition (horses with longer necks were more likely to be paralyzed) except for Clydesdales," Bramlage commented.

Corey to Lead the AAEP in 2007

Douglas G. Corey, DVM, of Adams, Ore., was installed as the 53rd president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) during the convention. He will serve through 2007.

Corey is a partner at Associated Veterinary Medical Center, a six-person mixed animal practice. Since joining the AAEP in 1976, he has taken on many responsibilities within the organization, including serving as chairman for the Research, Public Relations, Membership, Equine Welfare, and 50th Anniversary committees. He previously served on the AAEP board of directors from 1995 to 1998. Corey also is a past president and board member of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and was honored as the 1997 Oregon Veterinarian of the Year.

Within the equine community, Corey has devoted much of his attention to horse welfare issues, particularly through the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Instrumental in the establishment of a full-time animal welfare position at the PRCA, Corey helped develop minimum care guidelines for rodeo livestock as well as other welfare rules and guidelines for the PRCA. He has served on the Advisory Council to the PRCA on Animal Welfare for 23 years and has chaired the organization's Veterinary Advisory Committee.

Corey has also served as the chairman of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Committee and is a member of the American Horse Council's Equine Welfare Committee. He serves as the National Final Rodeo's On Call veterinarian for media relations each year.

A graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., Corey received his veterinary degree from Colorado State University in 1976. He and his wife, Heather, have a daughter, Cydney, and a son, Bobby.

KIMBERLY S. BROWN

White II, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, received the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture trophy and presented "Equine Colic: A Real Pain in the Gut."

Vail Honored as Distinguished Life Member

AAEP Past President Charles D. Vail, DVM, was recognized for his contributions to veterinary medicine and the AAEP at the Dec. 5 President's Luncheon during the convention.

Vail, a Colorado native, graduated from the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1960. Upon graduation, he went to work for Harry W. Johnson and G. Marvin Beeman at the Littleton Large Animal Clinic in Littleton, Colo., and continues practicing there today.

An AAEP member since 1963, Vail has been very active within the association. In addition to serving as president in 1985, he has served on the AAEP Hospital Planning, Audit and Budget, Educational Programs, Proceedings Book, President's Advisory, Nominating, Problems Analysis, Public Relations, International Liaison, Political Liaison, Constitution and Bylaws, Infectious Disease, and Legislative Network committees. Vail also authored the AAEP's 50th anniversary publication, The History of the American Association of Equine Practitioners: The Second 25 Years.

Vail has had a career-long commitment to organized veterinary medicine and continuing education. He has been president of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, the Western Veterinary Conference, the Littleton Rotary, the Animal Assistance Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Stroke Association, and the Colorado State University Alumni Association.

Johnson Honored as Distinguished Life Member

AAEP Past President J. Clyde Johnson, VMD, was recognized for his contributions to veterinary medicine and the AAEP during the convention.

Johnson earned his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1962. Immediately after graduation, Johnson moved with his family to Vermont to begin private practice at the Vermont-New Hampshire Veterinary Clinic.

Johnson was a partner in the clinic for over 30 years. He sold his interest in 1993 to become a part-time employee, freeing up his time to devote to the AAEP and other interests including travel and leisure.

A dedicated AAEP member, Johnson

served on the AAEP board of directors, was the AAEP treasurer for five years, then served as an officer including the role of president in 1995. Most recently, Johnson has served as the AAEP's liaison to the AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee and is now the AAEP liaison to AVMA Communications Council. He also volunteers his time as part of the AAEP Foundation and the AAEP Public Policy committees.

In addition, Johnson is a past president of the Vermont State Veterinary Board, the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, and the New England Veterinary Medical Association. He also chaired numerous committees and has been recognized by his peers for outstanding service. Johnson has also authored two books: Four Legs or Two—Horses and Kids Are So Alike and Four Legs or Two—The Way You Train 'em is the Way You'll Have 'em.

Since 1995, Johnson has been semi-retired, continuing to work a few horse shows each year as an official veterinarian. He also is currently a trustee of the Veterinary Scholarship Trust of New England, helping to raise money for veterinary students in that area. In his free time he enjoys baking homemade bread and pies.

Divers Recognized as Distinguished Educator

Thomas J. Divers, DVM, was recognized for his efforts as an educator and mentor to the many students and colleagues with whom he has been affiliated. The award was presented during the Dec. 5 President's Luncheon.

Divers received his veterinary degree from the University of Georgia in 1975 and has been working within academia ever since. He has held various professor positions at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia, Cornell University, and the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center.

Currently, Divers is a professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Throughout his career, Divers has received recognition for his efforts in teaching and research. He has been awarded The Norden Distinguished Teaching Award at both the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University; the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award; and the AVMA Samuel F. Scheidy Research Award. He also was a runner-up for the AVMA's North American Clinical Teacher Award. Divers has been published in numerous scientific journals.

Wilson Elected to AAEP Board

Julia (Julie) H. Wilson, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, was elected to the American Association of Equine Practitioners' (AAEP) board of directors. She began her term as District VI Director in December, 2006.

Wilson received her veterinary degree from Cornell University in 1978. She pursued an internship at Guelph and a residency at Florida, becoming board certified in large animal internal medicine in 1985. Post-residency, Wilson worked in a large animal practice in northern Virginia, then returned to Florida as a faculty member for eight years. Following a stint in private equine referral practice in New England, she joined the University of Minnesota, where she sees referral cases and teaches veterinary students.

She also plays a very active role in Pony Club and the Minnesota Association of Equine Practitioners, serving as president in 2005. Wilson currently serves on the board of directors of the charity Heifer International.

Wilson joined the AAEP in 1988, and she has been an active member from the beginning. She has served as a member of the Pediatrics, International, Membership, Abstract Review, and Scholarship committees. She also served as the chair of the International Committee. Wilson is currently a member of the Foundation Advisory and Student Relations committees, and she has served as the AAEP Student Chapter faculty advisor for the last four years.

Moore Elected AAEP Director-at-Large

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, was selected as a director-at-large for the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). He began his term during convention.

Moore obtained his veterinary and doctorate degrees from The Ohio State University in 1989 and 1994, respectively. After receiving his DVM, Moore completed a one-year internship in large animal medicine and surgery at the University of Georgia. He then completed his equine surgical residency at The Ohio State University in 1993. Moore became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1994.

Currently, Moore is the chairperson of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to starting this position, he was the director of the Equine Health Studies Program and service chief of Equine Medicine and Surgery Section at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. He is originally from West Virginia and earned his BS from West Virginia University.

Moore has authored or co-authored 15 book chapters, approximately 90 peer-reviewed scientific articles, and more than 150 scientific abstracts. He has delivered numerous scientific and continuing education presentations at local, state, national, and international conferences. He frequently serves as an invited speaker at national and international equine veterinary clinical and research symposia.

An AAEP member since 1993, Moore has served on the both the Educational Programs and Research Committees.

Morehead Elected to Board of Directors

James (Jim) P. Morehead, DVM, has been elected to the American Association of Equine Practitioners' (AAEP) board of directors. He began his term as District IV Director at the convention.

Morehead received his veterinary degree in 1983 from the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine. Between 1983 and 1986, Morehead was employed at Equine Medical Associates in Edmond, Okla. From 1986 until 1990, Morehead worked at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky.

Since 1991, he has been the owner of Equine Medical Associates in Lexington. Morehead has also served as the resident veterinarian of Three Chimneys Farm in Midway, Ky., since 1999. He served as the 2004 president of the Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners.

Morehead joined the AAEP in 1984 and has been an active member of the association, serving two terms on the Reproduction/Perinatology Committee and one term on the Infractions Committee. Morehead also served on the Purchase Exam Guidelines Task Force and chaired the Drug Compounding Task Force. In 1998, he was a member of the Ad Hoc Bony Lesions in Sale Yearlings Committee.

Morehead attended the AAEP's 2002 Leadership Development Workshop, and he is currently a member of the Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee. Morehead also is co-chairman of the Equine Species Working Group of the American Horse Council.

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