Hello! I am proud to report that the IEOC membership organization is off and running. You have received this newsletter because you are an active member of the IEOC. Please see our webpage (www.equineophtho.com) and other sections of this newsletter for more benefits of being a member of the IEOC.

It has been an exciting year for equine ophthalmology. The first IEOC meeting, held April 3-4, 2009 in Lexington Kentucky was a great success. I think I learned more in those 2 days than I have in years. Furthermore, the AAEP sponsored a “Focus” meeting on Ophthalmology for the first time in October 2009. Dennis Brooks, Ann Dwyer, and I organized this CE meeting. It was an overwhelming success and it heightened the awareness of equine ophthalmology in the AAEP and among general practitioners. Also, for the first time, at the ACVO meeting in Chicago, the IEOC hosted a breakout session exclusively of equine abstracts on November 6th that was attended by more than 200 people!

The Equine Veterinary Journal is publishing a special supplement on equine ophthalmology (due out in December 2009) as a memorial to Dr. Keith Barnett. The second edition of the textbook Equine Ophthalmology is being completed, and will be published in 2010. Also in 2010, we will have our second IEOC Symposium, with Acrivet as the major sponsor, at the University of Vienna (see more information herein). The 3rd annual IEOC Symposium in 2011 will be in the USA and we have already received support from the Dorothy Havemeyer Foundation for this meeting. Finally, our very own Dr. Dennis Brooks with give the prestigious Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture at the AAEP meeting, December 4-8 in Baltimore, MD.

The future of the IEOC and equine ophthalmology is very bright and exciting. We will proceed this year to continue developing the IEOC organization, including developing a structure for governance, i.e., a rotating board of directors, and expanding member benefits.

I encourage all of you to be active participants in the development of the IEOC. There is much potential for the IEOC to facilitate research, spread knowledge, and to improve the quality of equine ophthalmology!
We have a lot to report regarding the forming of our new organization! In 2009 the IEOC was formally established as a non-profit organization, articles of incorporation were filed and a federal tax identification number was assigned. Bank accounts were opened to facilitate business, and a part-time management company was hired to bring all of this to fruition.

An initial membership invitation was sent out to ACVO, ECVO diplomates and those practicing veterinary ophthalmology. This resulted in a membership of 72 charter members. Thank you for joining the IEOC. We are excited by the opportunities for collaboration that this effort should provide the equine ophthalmology community.

Goals for 2010 include establishing a board of directors, standing committees and finalization of bylaws and policies documents. If you would like to become involved in the IEOC, consider volunteering to serve on the board or on a committee. The association will be completing its governance documents and organizing standing committees this year. Please contact the IEOC office or Dr. Brian Gilger if you wish to volunteer.

### IEOC Website Forum

If you have not already done so, please take the time to register on the IEOC website to gain access to the interactive forum. This is similar to a list-serve, except photos can be posted and there will be a searchable archive of responses.

To register for the forum - click on the link “login” that is above the IEOC logo on: www.equineophtho.com.

On the “Login page” click on “No account yet? Register” Fill out the information on the registration page and click on “register”

You will then get an email (within a few hours or days) that tells you that you have access to the forum. Please check the forum frequently for new cases, messages, and posted images.

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**Calendar**

**Advanced Equine Ocular Surgery Course**
Sponsored by Acrivet, inc.
Jan 22-24, 2010 Hennigsdorf (Berlin), Germany
Please contact Ingeborg Fromberg from Acrivet for more information (i.fromberg@acrivet.com)

**Equine Ophthalmology CPD Weekend**
(see attached flyer)
Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk Cb8 7uu
Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th February 2010
Contact Karen Gooch at AHT Equine on 01638 751 908 or email karen.gooch@aht.org.uk

**Second Annual IEOC Symposium**
Vienna, Austria
June 4-5, 2010
Contact office@equineophtho.com or visit www.equineophtho.com

**IEOC Mini-Symposium**
San Diego, CA
ACVO Conference
October 6-9, 2010

**Third Annual IEOC Symposium**
USA (location to be determined)
April, 2011
The second annual IEOC Symposium is going to be held at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna Austria. Dr. Barbara Nell and her staff will serve as our host.

The meeting will begin with a welcome reception at the University on the evening of Thursday, 3 June 2009. On Friday, 4 June we have scheduled an in-depth corneal disease discussion beginning with a state of the art review lecture, followed by the presentation of abstracts (see below about abstract submission). We will then host round table discussions on corneal disease. This format was a highly successful part of the first IEOC symposium therefore we will repeat it. In the afternoon, we will begin with a lecture on adnexal diseases, followed by abstracts and another round-table discussion.

On Saturday, 4 June, we will have the same general structure with a state of the art lecture on ERU and glaucoma, abstracts, then a round table discussion on these subjects. We will conclude the symposium with abstracts on lens, retinal disease, or miscellaneous abstracts. A final round table discussion will conclude the symposium.

Dr. Nell has planned a wonderful social program including an optional preconference trip to the breeding stud Piber, a guided city tour, a gala dinner, a winery dinner, and finally, an optional post-conference trip to the Spanish Riding School. This meeting not only promises to be a highly educational meeting, but also a memorable one.

Registration materials and a call for abstracts will be sent out by the end of the year. Deadline for abstracts will be February 15 with notification of acceptance by March 1. Accommodations and travel information will be included.

Members’ Recent Publications


Entertaining Anecdotes from Members

by Dr. Bill Miller

At last years Germantown Charity Horse show I had a client call with a complaint her horse had a problem with its right eye. I went out and examined the Warmblood and found nothing wrong with either eye. I re-asked the history trying to find out what exactly led the owner to believe the horse had an ocular problem much less a problem with the right eye. She told me that the horse had missed a jump and after consulting her horse psychic, she was told the problem was in the right eye. I politely informed the owner I could find nothing wrong but if she spoke with the psychic again to let me know if I had missed something. To my surprise I got a call at the office the next day, asking me to come back out and examine the horse again. Not being one to turn down a second exam fee I went back out and examined the horse. Again no abnormalities found. When I told the owner the eye was normal she was certainly disappointed, asking me “are you sure?” I then told her, I suspected there was so much psychic energy going between the horse and the psychic that the eye must have been healed in the process. The owner was ecstatic with the diagnosis as was, it turned out, the psychic. I now get referrals from the psychic.
EQUINE OPHTHALMOLOGY CPD WEEKEND
ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST
SATURDAY 6TH – SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will improve the ophthalmological diagnosis and surgical skills of equine and mixed practitioners promoting excellence in the treatment of ocular disease in horses. It is also aimed at practitioners studying ophthalmology at a higher level (e.g. RCVS certificate) that may not have as much equine exposure as they would like and in preparation for the certificate practical examination.

Day one of the course consists of lectures on common ophthalmic conditions in the horse including eyelid disease, corneal disease, equine recurrent uveitis, lens disease and diseases of the ocular fundus (both retina and optic nerve). Day two will be wet labs with ophthalmic examination of equine ocular patients, surgical teaching and practice on cadaver globes and heads. Delegates will have the opportunity to improve their utilisation of ophthalmic equipment and diagnostic skills, practice ocular ultrasonography, perform regional nerve blocks relevant to the eye, practice placement of lavage systems and undertake cadaver surgical procedures such as conjunctival graft placement.

COURSE TUTORS
David Donaldson BVSc (Hons) CertVOphthal DipECVO MRCVS - AHT Head of Unit
Jane Sansom BVSc DVOphthal DipECVO FRCVS - AHT Senior Clinician
Claudia Hartley BVSc CertVOphthal DipECVO MRCVS - AHT Senior Clinician
Marian Matas DVM MRCVS - AHT Clinician
Claudia Busse (Wet Lab) DVM MRCVS - AHT Clinician
James Oliver (Wet Lab) BVSc CertVOphthal MRCVS - Davies Clinician
Barbara Braus (Wet Lab) Dr Vet-Med MRCVS - Willows Clinician

BOOKING DETAILS
16 hours CPD at the Animal Health Trust, nr Newmarket
Cost: £450 plus VAT
Contact Karen Gooch at AHT Equine on 01638 751 908 or email karen.gooch@aht.org.uk

ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST, LANWADES PARK, KENTFORD, NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK CB8 7UU