Dear IEOC members:

While warmer temperatures may bring swimming, vacation and picnics to some, those of us who practice equine ophthalmology know that summer is a season filled with infectious keratitis and ocular trauma! This newsletter will update you on the latest happenings in the IEOC, including a preview of the 2012 meeting in Scotland and a new program to help members get to know each other, and will hopefully provide a much-needed break in your busy equine practice schedule. As always, thank you to the members of the Public Relations committee for their contributions to this newsletter. The committee welcomes feedback from the membership and novel ideas on ways to facilitate member collaboration and communication.

Amber Labelle, DVM, MS, DACVO
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

On behalf of the IEOC Board, I would like to thank the IEOC Members for your contributions to past and future conferences. While we’re all looking forward to meeting in Scotland this next summer, members might like to know of internal developments. As you know a board was elected and bylaws adopted at the business meeting in Florida. A list of board members and profiles are listed in this newsletter and on the current IEOC website. Feel free to contact them with suggestions involving the development of your organization.

The board held its first teleconference meeting in June. At that time we discussed future goals of the IEOC as it relates to membership needs. Discussion ensued about how to set our members apart from other equine specialists. A fellowship of sorts was discussed as an option but was not seen as favorable at the moment. In the fall Dr. Brooks will address the membership regarding his discussion with the ACVO to begin considering an equine certification through the ACVO, and how this might work with IEOC members. The dues timing/structure is also being reconsidered, among other expansions of committee work. These ideas are all preliminary and your thoughts are welcomed to any board members or myself.

The board also placed as its first priority a complete rebuilding of the website. The primary goal being usability. We would like to make this so user friendly and content rich that you just HAVE to check it out as part of your daily routine! :) Our plan is to have the site completely revamped by the end of August. The content will be reorganized, a member portal area developed and an improved forum developed. A dot.org URL is being purchased and the logo will be redesigned. The hope is to create a professional brand for the organization. The PR Committee has selected our management company, MatrixAMC, Inc. to complete the site. Therefore if you have any specific suggestions that you would like to see, please email us at office@equineophtho.com.

We look forward to representing you and supporting you in your profession.

Stacee Daniel
MatrixAMC, Inc. Owner
Acting IEOC Director
Meet Your IEOC Colleagues

Each newsletter we will highlight a few of your IEOC colleagues. This time we are starting with a few of your Board and Committee members. A link to a survey will be emailed to all members in the near future. Please take a moment to complete the survey and we will include your information in a future newsletter.

Board Members

**Dennis Brooks, President, DACVO 1984**
Current practice location: University of Florida

**Andy Matthews, President-Elect**
Current practice location: Kilmarnock, Scotland
Veterinary training: Edinburgh, undergraduate and PhD
Residency training: I’m not a ‘badged’ ophthalmologist, but achieved my FRCVS diploma by examination in Equine Ophthalmology.
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Living with the wonderment as to why most of my eye cases apparently refuse to conform to established pathological and clinical ophthalmic paradigms, Oh! And ophthalmic immunobiology.
Fun facts: My passions are Ski Mountaineering, Scottish literature and music, and dreaming up increasingly eccentric ways to limit depredation of Harelaw’s woods by local fauna and the neighbour’s heifers.

**Caryn Plummer, Board Secretary/Treasurer**
Veterinary training: University of Florida, 2002
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Corneal wound healing, ocular surface disorders.
Fun facts: SCUBA!

**Tim Cutler, Board Member-At-Large, DACVO 2002**
Current practice location: Equine Ophthalmology PA, Wellington, FL

**Tammy Miller-Michau, Board Member-At-Large & Symposium Planning Committee Member**
Current practice location: BluePearl Veterinary Partners, Florida
Veterinary training: The Ohio State University

Public Relations Committee Members

**Amber Labelle, Chair**
Current practice location: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Veterinary training: DVM UC Davis 2004, MS Illinois 2010
Residency training: University of Illinois, DACVO 2010
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Infectious keratitis, ocular manifestations of systemic disease, markers of ocular inflammation.
Fun facts: I am an avid photographer; my favorite thing to photograph is my pug, Dexter! I am also a fairly lousy three day eventer and lindy hop swing dancer (I enjoy these activities but have no actual talent for them).

**Ann Dwyer**
Current practice location: Genesee Valley Equine Clinic, Scottsville, NY (since 1983)
Veterinary training: Cornell University, DVM, 1983 Clinical Associate, Department of Ophthalmology, Flaum Eye Institute, University of Rochester School of Medicine Currently Vice President, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Uveitis, blindness in horses, field practice of equine ophthalmology.
Fun facts: Enjoys playing the cello, kayaking, yoga and writing

**Richard McMullen**
Current practice location: North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Veterinary training: Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany
Residency training: North Carolina State University
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Equine vision, optics and refractive surgery.
Fun facts: Photography, tennis and cycling.

**William (Bill) Miller**
Current practice location: Memphis TN
Veterinary training: Louisiana State University
Residency training: Auburn University, DACVO 1986

Residency training: North Carolina State University, DACVO 2004
Fun facts: I have a Dutch Warmblood named Wodan and we compete together in dressage.

**Bernhard Spiess, Board Member-At-Large**
Current practice location: Equine Department, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Veterinary training: University of Lausanne and Zurich, Switzerland
Residency training: Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, DACVO 1986
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Equine recurrent uveitis, ocular tumors.
Fun facts: Horse riding, sailing, flyfishing, cross-country skiing.
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Corneal wound healing.

Fun facts: Gardening, running.

Mary Utter
Current practice location: New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square, PA
Veterinary training: Michigan State University
Residency training: University of Florida, DACVO 2006
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Corneal wound healing.

Fun facts: Goal - beating Richard McMullen at tennis (singles).

Mary Utter
Current practice location: Optivet Referrals, Havant, Hampshire, UK
Veterinary training: University of Bristol
Residency training: University of Bristol
Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Cataract surgery, Retinal disease
Fun facts: I have three children under 6 - hobbies and special interests seem a long time ago.

Rachel Allbaugh
Current practice location: Manhattan, KS (Kansas State University) until July 22. Ames, IA or greater Des Moines area to follow (husband got a new job and the move puts us much closer to family).
Veterinary training: Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Residency training: Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, DACVO

Special interest within equine ophthalmology: Finding the inheritance and developing a DNA test for cataracts in American Saddlebreds.

Fun facts: I am an avid gardener (vegetable and flowers) and I have 4 horses that keep me busy!

Members’ Recent Publications


Entertaining Anecdotes from Members

Bill Miller, DVM, DACVO

Why I Became a Veterinary Ophthalmologist...
Or... Why I’ll Never Own a Peacock

Life is full of turns, some lead you in the direction you wanted to go and some turn you away from that direction. Prior to veterinary school I was certain I wanted to be an equine veterinarian. Nothing in veterinary school really changed that but one event shortly after graduation directed me immediately toward veterinary ophthalmology. As a recently minted veterinarian, I started working at the practice where I had worked prior to getting into veterinary school. What I lacked in experience I more than made up in enthusiasm. So one night while I eagerly awaited the emergency page to come in (yes this was in the dark ages when people carried pagers, shortly after we stopped using carrier pigeons) I was rewarded with a call to a racing quarter horse breeding stable.

The call was to one of our best clients. The stable housed at the time the number one racing quarter horse stallion in the country (remember all valuable stallions were or are number one in the world at something). I arrived at the farm to find the stallion, Tag, with mild colic. The barn where Tag lived was quite large with two stories of vertical clearance down the center and large stalls down either side of the central aisle. I did the routine physical and then prepared to palpate the horse. Tag was an unusually good stallion that, under normal conditions, was easy to handle. Being a stallion he was not used to being violated rectally. As determined as I was to place my arm in Tags colon, he was equally diligent in keeping me from achieving my goal. With lots of lube and patience I was finally able to indwell my arm all the way to the arm pit within the warm confines of the colon and begin my palpation. Unknown to me the farm owner had purchased a number of peacocks. Also unknown to me and obviously the farm manager, these exotic fowl had chosen to live in the rafters of the very barn where I was currently doing my best to eliminate the pain and suffering of my patient. There are three things I can tell you about peacocks that you should always remember, I know I have. One, they can sneak up behind you without a sound. Two, they are not very smart. Once the lights in the barn come on they believe it is dawn and come off of their roost. Three, they have a call that sounds something akin to the screech of tires just prior to a car wreck. These three facts combined to have a profound effect on my life at the time and subsequently later.

So as I am diligently palpating my patient who has clamped his anal sphincter as tightly as I thought possible (only just a few minutes later to find out that it could go even tighter) two peacocks, less than a foot behind erupted in ear piercing screeches. Two individuals were immediately aware of the birds’ presence. Tag not being the most willing participant in the venture decided the sound was the straw breaking the camel’s back and decided a quick exit would be in order. The horse however decided that I should accompany him, remember I already mentioned the further tightening of his anal sphincter. Both he and I cleared the first obstacle, a small Mexican man, who at the beginning of our endeavors was holding Tag’s halter. An observation I can make here is that running quarter horses can make good jumpers. Tag cleared the second obstacle, a small gate, but here he left a 158 pound pain in the rear end at the top of the gate. These events composed the longest second and a half of my life.

I am happy to say that Tag recovered and went on to sire a number of successful offspring. I determined from that point on, there had to be a better way to make a living and I decided to go to the opposite end of the animal. I thought about dentistry but since that is somewhat connected to the colon, it was just too close for comfort, therefore I was enticed to become an ophthalmologist. My second decision was to never own a peacock.

Future Newsletter Submissions

We would love to hear about your experiential equine ophthalmology anecdotes, whether educational, harrowing, or humorous. Send stories or excerpts to be run in the quarterly newsletter to office@equineophtho.com.

International Equine Ophthalmology Consortium

Send inquiries and future newsletter submissions to: PO Box 1311| Meridian ID | 83680 Ph. +1-208-466-2519 | Fx. +1-208-466-7693 office@equineophtho.com | www.equineophtho.com


Editors: Stacee Daniel and Jennifer Simon
Early registration is OPEN for the 2012 IEOC Symposium which will be held in Stirling, Scotland from June 10-12, 2012. The symposium will be a terrific opportunity to network with colleagues, get up to date on the latest developments in equine ophthalmology and visit an interesting part of the world.

The 2012 symposium marks the fourth annual gathering of the IEOC. Scientific sessions will take place on Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12. As with previous meetings in Kentucky, Austria and Florida, the sessions will be a blend of abstracts, case reports and small group discussions, and will feature a keynote lecture by an invited speaker. The setting will afford close interaction with many academic experts and private practice clinicians who are “raising the bar” in the understanding of the equine eye. Group meals and social events for attendees and their guests will enhance the experience.

The program Chair for this meeting is IEOC member Dr. Rob Lowe, owner of Optivet Referrals in Havant, England (http://www.optivet.com/). The local contact for the Stirling region is IEOC President-Elect Dr. Andy Matthews, a private practitioner and ocular immunologist from Ayrshire, Scotland. Drs. Lowe and Matthews invite all IEOC members who have never visited Scotland to consider a tour of the region either before or after the symposium.

Dr. Matthews has penned some “travel notes” (see page 8) that highlight special features of Stirling and nearby regions of Scotland. Drs. Lowe and Matthews promise that the 2012 IEOC symposium will be a great mix of science and fellowship for everyone from both sides “of the pond.”

The Stirling Management Centre at the University of Stirling (http://www.smc.stir.ac.uk/) will serve as the meeting site. Registrants will stay on campus and all lectures will be held at University facilities. Accommodations for two nights, plus 7 meals during the symposium will be provided at the college as part of the registration fee.

Additional information on the symposium and a call for abstracts for the meeting program will follow in future newsletters. However, anyone planning this trip should ACT NOW to pre-register, as the conference has limited accommodations. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Registration materials are available on pages 6 and 7 and at www.equineophtho.com.

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**Calendar**

**IEOC Board Meeting**

2011 ACVO Conference
Hilton Head, SC
Date: TBD

**2012 IEOC Symposium**

June 11-12, 2012
Stirling Management Centre
University of Stirling
Stirling Scotland, UK
FORMAT
The format for this meeting will be intimate, similar to formats of past IEOC annual meetings. The meeting will be comprised of combinations of panels, case reports, abstract presentations, state of the art lecturers, roundtables and enjoyable networking opportunities.

REGISTRATION INCLUDES HOUSING AND LODGING
Arrangements with Stirling will be different from years past. Housing accommodations for two nights at the facility and meals will be supplied to each registrant within the meeting registration fee (welcome reception, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners). Guests/spouses will be able to register at a lower cost (likely $40-50 / night) during the IEOC registration in the spring of 2012. This guest fee will cover lodging and breakfast of a second, non-attendee guest on site. For IEOC attendees, it is estimated at this time that the overall fee for registration, including this housing/lodging fee, will be approximately $750 - $900 per attendee.

BENEFITS OF PRE-REGISTRATION:
The facility may limit our registration to 40 attendees due to the rooms available. If a large percentage of people commit to pre-registering for the meeting, we should be able to increase the contract. At this time we cannot commit to more than 40 attendees as our deposit is figured off this amount, and IEOC is obligated to pay the per-person fee even if those slots are not filled. If it is financially feasible, we will likely to offer a reduced registration rate for those currently holding rooms. Full registration fees would be due in spring, 2012.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE:
Sunday, June 10.  Arrival at Stirling; Evening Welcome Reception
Monday, June 11.  Day 1 of symposium - abstracts, case reports, discussions and IEOC dinner
Tuesday, June 12. Day 2 of symposium - IEOC business meeting, guest lecturer, abstracts, IEOC dinner
Wednesday, June 13. Departure from Stirling
2012 IEOC SYMPOSIUM PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
Stirling Management Centre
University of Stirling
Stirling, Scotland

June 10-12, 2012

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________
Practice or Institution____________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address__________________________________________________________________________
City____________________ State____________  Postal Code_____________ Country________________
Phone ____________________ Fax____________________ Email________________________________

This pre-registration deposit will secure a spot for you at the 2012 IEOC Symposium in Stirling, Scotland. Your deposit will be debited toward the total registration cost, the remainder of which will be collected in Spring 2012. In the event of attendee cancellation, refunds will not be provided directly however, deposits are transferable to another symposium attendee.

Pre-registration deposit $ 250.00 $_______

No. of Rooms: ____ double/queen

Payment Information
Select Method of Payment
____ Check (on US bank) ____ Money Order (US Funds) OR ____ Credit Card

Credit Card Information
*The charge will show as “Meetings Etc” on your statement
Total amount due $________
Name on Card ____________________________________________________________
Signature ________________________________________________________________
Card Billing Address _____________________________________________________
Type of Card ____VISA _____MC _____Discover

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The ancient city of Stirling is located in the heart of central Scotland, midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Known as the "Gateway to the Highlands", the city is positioned near the boundary between the undulating farmland of the Lowlands and the rugged slopes of the Highlands. Stirling is an ideal starting point for a tour of the country. More information on the city can be found at the following websites:
http://www.visitstirling.org/FeatureListTop.aspx?docid=2&nav1=2
http://www.stirling.co.uk/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirling
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NS5-OBH4eL8

Stirling was the historic and strategic capital of Scotland throughout the middle ages and up until the mid-14th Century. It was said, mainly during the prolonged ‘difficulties’ we had with our predatory southern neighbor, that ‘whoever holds Stirling, holds Scotland’. Testament to this is the great Castle and medieval town centre of Stirling, and the surrounding battlefields, in particular the battlefield of Bannockburn where a visitor centre graphically describes the battle’s importance in the Scots wars of independence. Historically, also worth visiting are Doune Castle (10 miles), where much of the film ‘Monty Python and the Holy Grail’ was filmed, and the highly decorative Renaissance Palace of Linlithgow (15 miles). Linlithgow is unusual in that it was built as a residential palace, unlike just about every other thing in Medieval Scotland which was built for defense!

Stirling has easy road and rail access to both Edinburgh (1 hour, airport 45 mins) and Glasgow (1 hour, airport 75 mins). There is easy road access to Inverness, the Capital City of the Highlands (2.5 hours), and Perth (30 mins). Perth has one of the oldest horse racecourses in Europe, which lies in the grounds of Scone Palace, and has regular steeplechase meetings throughout the summer. There is also easy access to the Western Highlands and Islands. Oban, the major ferry port to the southern Hebridean Islands (Mull, Tiree, Jura, Islay and Colonsay) is 2.5 hours away, and Glencoe is 2 hours drive away. Glencoe is dramatic and for good reason is known as the ‘Glen of Weeping’, and the new visitor centre there gives you the reason why the surname Campbell is still vilified in some parts of the country. One other place worth visiting is New Lanark (90 minutes), a UNESCO heritage centre based upon the Cotton Mills and Village set up in the early 17th century as a social experiment where workers and their families enjoyed humane conditions and where children were compulsorily educated from 3 to 14 years.

The conference is based at the University of Stirling Management Centre and is located on the lovely parkland campus of the University, and sits directly underneath the impressive national monument to William Wallace (aka Hollywood/Mel Gibson ‘Braveheart’). The University has regular transport links to Stirling Town Centre and its bus and rail station. The campus houses a Golf Course and Olympic size swimming pool which can be used by visitors to the Management Centre. Also on campus is the McRobert Theatre and Arts Centre. The Management Centre has full hotel facilities.

In Scotland we can guarantee the visitor everything except the weather. So if the weather isn’t so good, best accept it as part of the visitor experience! Scotland has a fascinating history (once described as ‘the long winter of Scottish History’) and an amazing legacy for the visitor to explore. If anyone wishes to extend their stay in Scotland and would like to avoid the ‘tartan tat/Loch Ness monster’ tourist thing see me and I’ll be happy to help plan an itinerary.

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Stirling Castle