



BEVA's Annual Congress, 8-11th September, 2010, in Birmingham, promises to offer some fascinating information, discussions and practical advice, with an emphasis on comparative medicine and surgery, under the inspiring title of "The Art and Science of Veterinary Medicine".

This year, the three-day Congress will offer five simultaneous halls of presentations, grouped according to subject matter and level, from nursing, via practitioner workshops, panel discussions and core skills, up to in-depth exploration of particular topics and State of the Art presentations. Within some particular subject areas, the presentations will aim at successively increasing levels of expertise throughout the day. Furthermore, in some key areas, specialist speakers from the field of human medicine have been invited to address delegates, which will make for very stimulating and thought-provoking presentations.

The scientific programme begins on Thursday, 9th September. In the first hall, equine dentistry will be explored, beginning with routine dental care, followed by an interactive panel discussion and case presentations. This is always a tremendously useful way of reiterating previously discussed material, making sure those "take home messages" really are taken home. After lunch, delegates will be learning how to obtain and interpret quality radiographs of both normal and diseased heads and teeth. Finally, there will be an advanced dentistry session at the end of the day.

In the second hall, cardiology will be discussed, beginning with arrhythmias and murmurs, in both horses and humans. This is followed by an interactive panel discussion, which will also consider the significance of cardiac findings in prepurchase exams and poor performance investigations. After lunch, the endocrinology sessions will investigate PPID, metabolic syndrome and the cardiovascular complications of obesity in both horses and humans. A neurology session will complete the day in the second hall.

The third hall will explore various topical issues in both the United Kingdom, and within Europe. After lunch, there will be a business management workshop and open forum, an excellent way of resolving concerns about your practice, and of finding ways to improve profits and to keep costs down.

The fourth hall is dedicated to nursing on Thursday, including such topics as ethics, bereavement management and legal issues. This will be followed by complementary therapeutic techniques and rehabilitation. After lunch, various medical nursing scenarios are covered, and the day will end with nutrition and supportive care.

Clinical Research Abstracts will be presented throughout the day in the fifth hall.

The Friday of Congress sees the presentation of the Plenary Lecture, "Assisted Reproduction Technologies in the Horse", given by Dr Angus McKinnon from Australia. In addition, there will be a very interesting day's session on ophthalmology, beginning with diagnostic techniques beyond the ophthalmoscope, followed by various surgical techniques, and culminating, after tea, in a discussion panel centred around case presentations, debating whether to treat medically, or to intervene surgically, for the best possible outcome.

The second hall will host a day of orthopaedic interest, beginning with a specialist stifle session in the morning, followed by State of the Art presentations on regenerative therapy in joints, tendons and ligaments. Finally, problems associated with the suspensory ligament will be elucidated and discussed.

Reproduction will be addressed in the third hall, beginning with several presentations concerning stallion problems, and progressing to the management of twins in both humans and horses, followed by reproduction surgery in the mare. The very useful "core skills" session at the end of the afternoon will cover scanning for pregnancy, and mare management for AI with chilled or frozen semen, and post-breeding mare management.

An extremely useful session, relevant to all general practitioners, will run in the fourth hall, concerning wound management. A panel will guide delegates through different types of wound management, using interactive case discussions, involving techniques including dressing, bandaging, casts, grafts, drains and suture patterns. After lunch, there will be presentations on anaesthesia and peri-operative analgesia, culminating in the advanced anaesthesia problems that accompany foals, pregnant mares, and pregnant women.

The fifth hall will be dedicated to equine clinical pathology on the Friday, with presentations on the sampling and analysis of various tissues and fluids. After lunch, there will be a clinical genetics forum, an interactive discussion on the methods and ethics of genetic testing in the horse, which is sure to be very stimulating. The afternoon will conclude with a welfare session, discussing such topics as slaughter and injuries to dressage horses.

The final day of Congress, Saturday 11th, sees the first hall dedicated to the ever-popular lameness panel, a valuable session during which the experts evaluate and discuss a series of case presentations. This is followed by a session about the foot, including medical treatment options, ECSWT and new farriery ideas. After lunch, the imaging panel will be fascinating, as always, and will be followed by a series of presentations on regional anaesthesia of various parts of the head and limbs.

In the second hall, the morning is dedicated to perinatology, and is titled "Where theriogenologists and neonatologists meet". This will cover a fascinating catalogue of issues, including dystocia, resuscitation, high risk pregnancies, neonatal intensive care,

and other complications. After lunch, there will be a discussion panel concerning the late pregnant mare and the neonate, followed by further presentations on neonatology to finish the afternoon.

Abdominal disease will be the central topic for the third hall. To start the day, presentations will cover hepatic, renal and inflammatory bowel diseases. The ensuing workshop will open the floor to interactive discussions about various cases, helping delegates to interpret the significance of blood work results. After lunch, delegates will enjoy a "How to" afternoon which will cover organ biopsies and ultrasound, followed by a surgery-based core skills session on castration complications, rigs and angular limb deformities.

The theme of the abdomen will be continued in the fourth hall, in which the morning will begin with presentations on the complications of colic surgery. The Newshour will then follow - this is an opportunity for selected experts to present journal articles from the year that they feel are of particular interest and relevance to their field. The afternoon will see an interactive, scenario-led workshop about infectious disease and immunity, using case examples of endemic and exotic diseases.

The fifth hall will feature Clinical Research Abstracts, presented throughout the day.

This scientific programme for the 2010 BEVA Annual Congress promises to be both very educational and extremely interesting. Please keep reading, as more details will follow as the Congress approaches.