

Programme

9.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 Introduction (Dr Peter Webbon)

10.10 **NEW FOR 2008: LATEST NEWS BULLETIN**

NATURE'S DEFENCE SYSTEM – HOW IT WORKS AND WHY IT SOMETIMES DOESN'T

10.30 **Overview of the immune system (Professor Derek Knottenbelt)**

The immune process is a vital part of our ability to survive in a germ-laden environment but it is probably the least understood part of the body's physiology. This talk will illustrate the major components of the system and how they are interrelated.

10.50 **Monitoring and managing the immune system in the young foal (Mr Nick Wingfield Digby)**

*The importance of colostrum-derived immunity in the newborn foal will be discussed. Assessment and modification of immune status in the neonate is possible with good management procedures and simple veterinary tests. Results of research into the use of hyperimmune plasma in the control of *Rhodococcus equi* infection will be presented.*

WE ARE WHAT WE EAT!

11.10 **Nutrition in young stock and its effect on future behaviour (Professor Christine Nicol)**

This presentation will consider evidence that diet affects reactivity in horses. A growing body of work suggests that fat and fibre based diets may result in calmer patterns of behaviour. In contrast, the lack of evidence that most dietary supplements influence behaviour, whatever the marketing claims, will be emphasised. The important role of diet in the development of abnormal oral behaviour, particularly crib-biting, will be discussed.

11.30 Questions and discussion

SCIENCE UPDATE

11.40 **Equine genetics: science fiction or tomorrow's reality (Professor Tim Morris)**

Early this century the sequence of chemical building blocks which make up the DNA of humans was discovered and researchers then started looking for diseases associated with particular DNA sequences. British racing has been funding a major study to look at the genetic basis of certain diseases. This work is no longer in the realm of science fiction, and this presentation will summarise the challenges in turning the emerging scientific data into tomorrow's reality of treatment and prevention of disease in the horse.

11.50 Questions and discussion

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

12.00 **The Equine Welfare and the Training and Welfare System databases (Professor Tim Morris and Mr Anthony Stirk)**

The Equine Welfare database is designed to systemically collect all possible data. It is used to address one off specific questions, such as on race length and injuries, as well as longer term issues, such as risks in jump racing. The Training and Welfare System database is designed to aid trainers in their daily tasks. It also provides anonymous information to help reduce injuries and fatalities, such as related to particular training regimes. This presentation will give examples of the use of these databases.

12.20 Questions and discussion

12.30 Lunch

1.45 **NEW FOR 2008: QUESTION TIME: ASK THE PANEL***

MONITORING ON THE MOVE

2.25 **Computerised gait analysis: research tool or training aid? (Professor Alan Wilson)**

Video analysis, GPS and inertial sensors promise much for measuring how horses and jockeys move, the influence of different surfaces and the causes and the detection of early injury. An overview will be given of what these technologies can do, how we use them as research tools and hopefully generate discussion of whether they have value for the working farrier, veterinarian and trainer.

3.00 **See as you go: development of the portable endoscope and its practical use (Dr Sam Franklin and Mr Geoff Lane)**

The purpose of this presentation will be to review why it is often necessary to perform endoscopy of the upper airways during exercise if an accurate diagnosis is to be made. The lessons learned from treadmill studies will be analysed, leading on to the development of an 'overground' endoscope which can be used in the field. Video and sound recordings made during treadmill exercise, and also from the new portable endoscope developed at the University of Bristol with the help of the HBLB, will be included.

3.35 Questions and discussion

WOUND TREATMENT

3.55 **Optimum treatment of wounds: best practice in wound treatment - immediate and longer-term (Professor Derek Knottenbelt)**

It is an unfortunate fact that almost every horse will sustain at least one and probably several serious wounds! Wound healing in horses has an unfair reputation for 'going wrong'. Wounds DO heal if there is nothing to stop them doing so and the commonest inhibitors are infection and mistreatment. This talk will focus on how to encourage wound healing to proceed as fast as possible and to recognise some of the factors that need to be addressed during the healing process. If you do the wrong thing the wound will not heal but, if you do the right thing, healing time will at least be minimised! The question is "WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?"

4.15 Questions and discussion

4.30 Close

**Questions are invited from Seminar delegates. These should be submitted in advance - either on the registration form or by e-mail (louise.holder@w-communications.co.uk). A selection of these questions will be addressed by the expert panel.*