



## **Veterinary Ireland Media Release – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

### **COLLABORATION BETWEEN EQUINE VETS & HORSE INDUSTRY CAN PROTECT & ENHANCE THE SECTOR**

With the Irish bloodstock industry supporting in the region of 14,000 Irish jobs, the support provided by vets to the sector is becoming increasingly important. Irish vets specialising in the equine sector gathered in Kilkenny for the 2015 Veterinary Ireland Equine Conference in Lyrath (13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2015).

Jim Bolger, Thoroughbred Racehorse Trainer and Breeder, from Coolcullen, Co. Kilkenny officially opened the 2015 conference.

*“I was very fortunate to grow up on a mixed farm in Wexford, and so made the acquaintance of some very wise and talented vets at a very young age, as World War II was coming to an end. I got some very good advice from them which I cherish to this day. Later in life I used the services of some wonderful and talented vets with whom I shared many highlights and the occasional low in my career. I could not be more complimentary to them and to their profession,”* said Mr. Bolger.

#### **WORLDWIDE REPUTATION CONTRIBUTING TO OUR ECONOMY**

Denis Healy, Veterinary Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, said that the thoroughbred horse racing industry is worth in excess of €1 billion to the Irish economy, with the sports horse element contributing a further €0.75 billion.

“Ireland’s reputation for breeding thoroughbred racehorses is renowned worldwide and results in substantial foreign direct investment into the country. The sale of, and /or export of, thoroughbred horses for future racing or of sports horses for eventing, show-jumping or leisure purposes is a significant source of revenue,” said Mr. Healy.

At the Equine Veterinary Conference in Kilkenny, Mr. Healy delivered a presentation on ‘Working together to protect the international reputation of the Irish Equine Industry and the Irish Veterinary Profession’.

He said that investors need to be assured that at all stages of production from breeding, preparing for ‘sales events’, through to competing in racing, eventing, or show-jumping, that the usage of medicines is in accordance with National law as the ‘authorisation process’ guarantees the quality, safety and efficacy of each medicine for the animal being treated and also for the general public where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

Mr. Healy said that there is no place for the use of illegal medicines or performance enhancing drugs or hormones in the industry and highlighted the importance for vets and for persons in charge of horses of maintaining purchase and sales records for veterinary medicines.

“A close working relationship between equine veterinarians and the horse industry in general, with the various sections of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, can help to protect and enhance the reputation of the Irish Equine Industry well into the future,” said Mr. Healy.

## **INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS**

Dr. Karen Wolfsdorf DVM, DACT member from the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Kentucky, USA and specialist in infertility in the mare and problems during pregnancy delivered a number of presentations at the 2015 Veterinary Ireland Equine Conference, ranging from new treatments for equine endometritis to a case presentation on post-partum complications. She also demonstrated endometrial cytology and biopsy interpretation in the mare at a wetlab session

Safia Barakzai MSC, CertES, DESTS, Dipl. ECVS, MRCVS, Chine House, originally qualified in veterinary from Bristol University and has over 80 publications in veterinary scientific literature. She delivered presentations on subjects including equine respiratory tract surgery, clinical research updates on the upper respiratory tract, tie forward surgery, sinus disease and a weblab demonstration on over-ground upper airway endoscopy.

## **SHARING EXPERTISE**

Rosalinda Devereux MRCVS, Chair of the Veterinary Ireland Equine Conference Committee from Wexford Equine Veterinary Practice, thanked Ballylinch Stud for the use of their superb facilities for wetlab practical sessions on 12<sup>th</sup> November, preceeding the conference. She also thanked the many Irish expert equine vets who shared latest clinical techniques and updates with colleagues at the 2015 conference in Kilkenny. These included:

- Dr Brian MacNamara DVM, MRCVS, Warwick Equine Clinic NY, a specialist in performance horses licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Ireland, UK, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania who presented a 'How to' lameness locator.
- Hugh Suffern MVB, MRCVS from Tullyraine Veterinary Clinic in Banbridge, who is a former competitor in four star level eventing with a keen interest in equine sports medicine. His presentation was a practical approach to wind examination in the sales.
- Professor Tom Buckley, Head of Microbiology at the Irish Equine Centre delivered a presentation on respiratory infections. The Irish Equine Centre is interested in protecting the wellbeing of Ireland's horse population and maintaining Ireland's 'low disease' status.
- Cormac Feeney MVB, MRCVS, CertES (Soft Tissue) from Troytown Greyabbey Veterinary, The Curragh, Co. Kildare delivered a presentation on 'How to correct severe flexural deformities in neonates by casting.'
- David Stack, MVB MSc MRCVS – Resident in Equine Surgery, UCD Veterinary Hospital demonstrated how to ultrasound the larynx.
- Kajsa Gustafsson, DVM, Equine Intern, UCD Veterinary Hospital, delivered a case presentation about Multicentric lymphoma in a horse.
- Jeremiah O'Sullivan MVB, MRCVS, CertVR, NUI from Clinic na gCapall, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow presented about Yearling Radiographs.
- Dr Anja Rosenbrock MRCVS, Forenaghts Stud, Naas, Co. Kildare gave a case presentation on the 'New diagnostic approach to endometritis in the mare'.

The annual Michael Osborne lecture was delivered by Meta Osborne MVB CertESM MRCVS from Tinnakill House, Mountrath, Co Laois and Fred McKeating BVMS, FRCVS-RCVS shared updates from the Veterinary Defence Society.

Veterinary colleagues from the companion animal sector also travelled to Lyrath on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November for a Veterinary Ireland Companion Animal Society (VICAS) Continuing Veterinary Education Event. It featured:

- Tom Mullany MVB, Cert VC, MRCVS from Nutgrove Veterinary Hospital in Dublin who is a specialist in cardiology, diagnostic imaging and endoscopy

- Kathryn Pratschke MVB MVM CertSAS Dipl ECVS RCVS and European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery. Originally graduated from UCD before lecturing in Edinburgh and Glasgow and is now Clinical Director At North East Veterinary Referrals
- Dr Robert Shiel, Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine in UCD with research interests in endocrinology, neurology and genomics.

**ENDS**

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