

# VETERINARY IRELAND MEDIA RELEASE

## (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013)



### VETERINARY & SCIENTIFIC SPOTLIGHT ON PETS

#### Over 650 Vets & Vet Nurses Attend European Congress in Ireland

Over 650 vets and vet nurses from 43 countries are in Ireland this week for the 19<sup>th</sup> FECAVA EuroCongress (Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations). The major congress takes place at the Convention Centre, Dublin from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 and is organised jointly by Veterinary Ireland and the Northern Ireland branch of the BSAVA (British Small Animal Veterinary Association). Delegates were welcomed by Tom Hayes T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

One hundred and fourteen scientific and continuous professional development sessions will take place over three days on up-to-date treatments and practices ranging from orthopaedics, cardiology and epilepsy to dentistry or ophthalmology – entirely focused on companion animals, or pets.

The Congress, which is organised on an all-Ireland basis, places the spotlight on advances in companion animal care in Ireland and Europe.

*“We have seen significant advances in the treatment of pets in recent decades. The Congress features sessions which highlight new surgical procedures, new drug therapies and new treatments which can keep pets alive for longer with a good quality of life, benefiting both our pet patients and clients,”* said Alan Rossiter, immediate past President of Veterinary Ireland.

*“Providing vets with access to up-to-date scientific information and a forum for exploring new procedures is important for our own professional development. It helps us to do the best job possible to protect the health of pets in our care and to provide the best possible service to pet owners,”* said Mr. Rossiter.

Des Thompson, Scientific Chair for the European veterinary congress said: *“Even within the past 15 years we have seen tremendous progress in areas such as keyhole surgery techniques or oncology surgery, radiology and drug treatments, which all mean that many pet owners can enjoy the companionship of their pets for longer.”* Mr. Thompson said that other improvements such as imaging with MRI and CT scans support more accurate diagnostics as well as treatment decision making.

*“Working in an environment with constantly evolving science and trends involves continuous learning for all members of a veterinary practice team,”* said Mr. Thompson. He welcomed the breadth of content of interest to veterinary nurses as well as vets and specialists.

*“Up to date approaches to recovery in physiotherapy and hydrotherapy will be covered at the congress as well as behavioural indicators and welfare implications, providing insights which can help to improve the relationship between owners and pets with behavioural problems.”*

Karena Scott from the Northern Ireland branch of the BSAVA (British Small Animal Veterinary Association) said that cats and dogs may be typical patients but that vets are seeing an increasing variety of pets and animals extending to exotic pets.

Commenting on the congress, Minister Tom Hayes T.D. said that he was delighted that the organisers had chosen Ireland as the venue for the congress this year, which he said would bring valuable business to the local economy. He welcomed the emphasis of the congress on pets and said that, in the context of the enactment of the Animal Health & Welfare Act earlier this year, his colleague, Minister Coveney, had indicated that he intended to introduce legislation to provide for the microchipping of dogs which he felt would help to reduce the cost of caring for lost or stray dogs while owners are being located, thereby reducing the stress on owners.

The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine has conducted a public consultation on the issue and intends to bring forward the details of this scheme in the near future. Concluding, the Minister wished the delegates well in their deliberations.



The FECAVA EuroCongress features over 40 leading international, European and Irish scientists and veterinary experts, covering a wide range of subjects. It has been organised with sponsorship from Hill's Pet Nutrition, Zoetis, Norbrook Laboratories Ltd., Failte Ireland and Aer Lingus and is supported by over 50 industry exhibitors at the event.

Further details are available at [www.fecava2013.org](http://www.fecava2013.org). An example of experts & subjects follows:

### **FECAVA – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress – Dublin 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

Organised by Veterinary Ireland & the Northern Ireland branch of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association

#### **Sample - Experts & Congress Subjects:**

- **Bairbre O'Malley** MVB CertVR MRCVS set up the first veterinary hospital in Ireland specialising in exotic pets in 2002. She previously worked in small animal practices in the UK and Australia; and was appointed Associate Lecturer in Exotic Species at the UCD Veterinary College in 1991. Congress subjects include: "Approach to the Parrot with Feather Plucking," "Hospital Care of the Sick Reptile – How to House, Handle, Medicate and Feed," "Nursing Care of the Anorexic Rabbit," & "Avian Emergencies – From Seizures to Dyspnoea."
- **Lynetta Freeman**, Veterinary Clinical Services, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA, brings huge experience in the development of surgical procedures and devices combined with significant clinical research experience. Congress subjects include: "Exercises for Improving Technical Skill in Minimally Invasive Surgery," "Core Skills in Laparoscopy: Biopsy, Spay and Lap-Assisted Procedures," & "Core Skills in Thoracoscopy: Access, Exploration, Biopsy, Pericardial Procedures, Thoracoscopic Assisted Procedures."
- **Laura Blackwood**, Professor of Small Animal Oncology, University of Liverpool and Clinical Director of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital at Liverpool – clinical interests are in medical and radiation oncology and clinical pathology with research interests including molecular genetics and therapeutics of cancer. Congress subjects include: "Problems with Chemotherapy of Lymphoma," "Mast Cell Tumours – Where Are We Now ?" & "Principles of Chemotherapy."
- **Erik Teske** – President of ESVIM & Professor of Oncology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands – interest in Oncology and clinical cytology. Congress subjects include: "Diagnosis of Anemia," "Interpretation of Leukocyte Abnormalities," "Malignant Lymphoma," & "Paraneoplastic Syndromes."
- **Maria Gomez-Sanchez**, University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital. Congress subjects include: "Hydrotherapy" (rehabilitation) & "Physiotherapy" (musculoskeletal & neurological disorders in small animals and equine patients).
- **Xavier Manteca**, Professor, Barcelona Veterinary School. Congress subjects include: "How Does Stress Influence Physical Disease in Cats & Dogs," "Practical Use of Behavioural Indicators of Stress to Enhance Feline Welfare in the Veterinary Practice."
- **Mike Martin** MVB DVC MRCVS – originally a graduate of UCD, a referral practitioner for 20 years he is based at the Veterinary Cardiorespiratory Centre at Kenilworth, UK. He is a recipient of various BSAVA awards. Congress subjects include: "The Collapsing Dog: A Cardiologists' Perspective," "A Practitioner's Guide to Recognising Heart Failure in Dogs," & "A Practical Guide to Management of Arrhythmias in Dogs."
- **Carlos Macias**, an award winning specialist in Orthopaedics, who runs a referrals practice in Malaga, Spain, since 2006. His main interests are in joint replacement, limb deformities and all aspects of neurosurgery. Congress subjects include: "I Think It's Got a Cruciate But It Is Stable. What do I do ?" & "Distal Limb Arthrodesis: When & How ?"



- **Michael Willard**, Professor of Small Animal Clinical Studies with Texas A&M University, Texas, USA and a specialist in gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatology and endoscopy. Congress subjects include: “It Hurts When I Swallow – Oesophagitis”, “Protein-Losing Enteropathies”, “Using a Flexible Endoscope to Investigate GI Disease,” & “Hematemesis.”
- **Anna Meredith** MA VetMB PhD CertLAS DZooMed MRCVS RCVS Professor of Zoological & Conservation Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK and recognised specialist in zoo and wildlife medicine. Congress subjects include: “Approach to the Rabbit with Neurological Disease,” “Approach to the Rabbit with Urine Scalding,” “Approch to the Rabbit with Respiratory Disease,” “Husbandry Advice for Exotic Pet Owners,” “Making the Practice Rabbit Friendly,” & “Rabbit Emergency – Gut Disease.”
- **Jens Häggström** is a world leader in cardiology. Professor (Chair) of Internal Medicine at Uppsala, Sweden, Jens main interests in research concerns acquired heart disease in dogs and cats, pathophysiology and therapy of heart failure; and genetic risk factors for heart disease in dogs and cats. Congress subjects include: “Advances in the Therapy of Heart Failure,” “Update on Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dogs,” “New Perspectives on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in Cats,” & “Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease in Dogs – Recent Research Findings Including Newly Discovered Genetic Locus for the Disease.”
- **Emma Tobin** MVB MVM CVR DipECVDI – Veterinary Radiologist & University College Dublin. Congress subject: “Imaging the Vomiting Dog.”
- **Michael Woods**, MVB Cert V Ophthal MRCVS, President of the European Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ESVO), ophthalmology referral service based in Dun Laoghaire. Congress subject: “Cataracts – A Practitioner’s Perspective: What are they, how do I assess them, how do I treat them ?”
- **Claudia Reusch** DVM, DipECVIM-CA, Professor & Head of Clinic, Small Animal Internal Medicine, University of Zurich. Her particular interests in endocrinology are in diabetes mellitus and adrenal disorders. She was a founder and President of the European Society of Veterinary Endocrinology. Congress subjects include: “Adrenal Hormones – Beyond Cortisol,” “Managing Diabetes Mellitus in Cats,” “Emerging Endocrine Disorders in Cats,” & “Diabetic Ketoacidosis.”

**This list is a sample of Congress content only. Full list of speakers and programme details are available at [www.fecava2013.org](http://www.fecava2013.org)**

**ENDS**

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**Editorial Footnote:**

If you are interested in speaking with one of the main organisers for a congress overview, with the chair of the scientific committee in relation to content; or potentially with speakers involved in specific subjects at the Congress, please let us know how we can help.