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Vets welcome Bikers at Horse Welfare Charity Seminar

A very unusual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event for Veterinary practitioners will take place at UCD this Friday 22nd July, 2011, hosted jointly by Veterinary Ireland and by University College Dublin (UCD).

Led by Professor Derek Knottenbelt of the University of Liverpool, a group of 8 leading equine academics and specialist practitioners from the UK are riding their motorbikes across to Dublin, via the Belfast Ferry, to deliver the **VETS WITH HORSEPOWER** seminar in aid of charity. In return, delegates at the seminar will make donations to the charities supported by the event, namely, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) and the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA).

Following the success of last year's HORSEPOWER event in the UK, in which 10 equine vets rode 1500 miles each on motorcycles, and which raised just on GB £100,000 for UK and International Charities, the bikers are back in the saddle this month to deliver a series of talks at UCD on broad topics from a "top 10" of sports horse lameness, to equine neurological examination, and advances in wound management technology.

These 8 motor biking equine experts, all eminent speakers in their own right, are giving their time and expertise free of charge to deliver this unique course, designed to suit all practicing equine veterinary surgeons. Money raised by donations and sponsorships will be divided between SPANA (for clinical equipment for the SPANA MALI and SPANA MAURITANIA clinics) and the ISPCA, supporting equine welfare at the National Animal Centre and The Victor Dowling Equine Rescue Centre.

Speaking about the event, Dr Vivienne Duggan, Chair of Veterinary Ireland's Equine Interest Group, and Equine Medicine Lecturer and Clinician at UCD, said that "*the event not only provides an opportunity for the equine veterinary profession to show its support for the valuable work being undertaken by these charities, and to raise essential funds for them, but also shows that vets are willing to undertake CPD to expand on their knowledge base and be part of the solution in countering the equine welfare problem which Ireland is currently experiencing*"

Interest in the event has been tremendous with over 100 delegates signed up in advance. "*It is our hope that the day will raise over €10,000 for these Irish and International charities, as well as providing cutting edge continuing education for Irish equine vets*", said Dr Duggan.

For more information on Vets with horsepower, contact:

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Veterinary Ireland represents veterinary practitioners in private practice and in Central and Local Government. We are always happy to provide appropriately qualified and informed persons to contribute further to veterinary and animal welfare debate in a constructive and reasoned manner. Please contact Veterinary Ireland HQ on 01 457 7976 or by e-mail at HQ@vetireland.ie.