Polishing Nandi

First for the numbers:

An unofficial record was the takeaway from the annual conference in Columbus. Unofficial, because the old tales of attendance are not available and a record because everyone that I polled could not remember a higher attendance. (both of 'em) A total of 416 registered for the conference which included 30 speakers and 35 students. Columbus turned out to be a great location for the event and the program committee did an excellent job.

Symposia attendance was not a sell-out but we did contribute to our mission of providing leading edge information on animal reproduction as well as added significantly to the published references on feline, bovine and small ruminant reproduction. One more round of thanks goes to Walter, Brian, Bob, Herris, Peggy, Ahmed and Carlos.

Now in the wake of the excitement of Columbus, I am making a place for Nandi in my office. The names of the presidents inscribed on the base where Nandi resides make me pause and think about the founding principles and history of the organization. Sitting this close to the symbol of our professional heritage, the importance of the discipline of Theriogenology to practitioners and their clients is clearly felt.

But as the heavy image of Nandi goes on top of the base, the oxidation makes the inscription hard to read. It is evident that a little Brasso is in order. A half hour of polish and it looks refreshed. Under the tarnish, I am again amazed to find a shining, proud creature. “NANDI the sacred bull and symbol of fruitfulness. Casts his gaze upon his worshipful flock.” Ironically it occurs to me, with a little polish, our entire organization can have a shining image. It is up to all of us to assure our organizational image is polished and Theriogenology’s place in the veterinary curriculum and its utility to the practitioner is preserved and fostered.

Actually, many things are happening. For starters, there are several action items from the September board meeting that are aimed at improving our image and utility to the practitioner. First, Cathy Gartley is chairing a committee to develop client education brochures, utilizing a grant from Pfizer Animal Health. (Call Cathy if you have suggestions.) Tom Riddle is chairing a committee to update the Stallion BSE form. Jimmy Alexander is working on the final components of a Bull BSE training CD. Peter Chenoweth and his committee are developing a proposal to energize our student SFT members. Patrick Hearn is working with Charles Franz to update our WEB site. Dwight Wolf is gearing up for a great program in Lexington which will focus on neonatology. Walter Zent is exploring some new activities for the annual conference which may include a tour of some of Lexington’s finest horse farms. Walter is also looking towards the 2005 conference in Charleston, SC.

With so much being tended to by the leadership, my role is to just keep polishing Nandi. Granted there is a limit to the number of times you can rub the sacred bull. So my goal this year is to do what I can to polish the organizational image. You can help by calling attention to issues or opportunities. Whether it is a threatened university curriculum or an endangered practitioner forum, my goal is to remind everyone that the discipline of Theriogenology is often the first point of contact with a client. That veterinary client patient relationship may expand to other disciplines or remain focused on reproduction, but it must be said that. “Theriogenology brought ‘em to the table.” Don’t be hesitant to be a local champion for our discipline at veterinary colleges, state associations, in your practice or wherever. Please feel free to contact me if you think I may be able to help as well.
2003 Abstract Competition Winners

There were eight (8) abstracts selected for competition at the 2003 SFT/ACT Annual Conference and Symposium. These abstracts were presented during the plenary session and were judged on the basis of scientific merit (written) and presentation (oral).

The graduate abstract presentations were highly competitive this year; we have listed the four (4) winners along with their abstract titles:

1st Place - $1,000.00
George Perry
Title: Ability of CIDRs and Melengestrol Acetate to Induce Estrous Cycling Status in Anestrous Postpartum Beef Cows

2nd Place - $750.00
Wenbo Yan
Title: Effects of Relaxin on Estrogen Receptor and Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Expression in the Cervix and Vagina of Neonatal Pigs

3rd Place - $500.00
Tracy Murchie
Title: The Use of Microdialysis to Detect Drugs in Equine Allantoic Fluid

4th Place - $250.00
Marco Coutinho da Silva
Title: Effect of Semen Extender and Centrifugation Through Percoll Binding of Stallion Sperm to Bovine Zona Pellucida

Congratulations to these winners!

SFT/ACT would like to thank our sponsors for the 2003 SFT Annual Conference & the SFT/ACT Symposia

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Outgoing President of SFT and incoming President of SFT.
SFT Immediate Past President, Dr. Gary Althouse conducts the Annual Business Meeting.

SFT Immediate Past President, Dr. Gary Althouse presents a plaque of appreciation to Conference Chairman, Dr. Fred Lehman.

Welcome to the SFT newest Board Members, Drs. Jim Brendemuehl, Ana Adams, and Gary Warner.

Conference Chair for the Abstracts Presentations, Dr. Jeanette Floss, presents a check to the First Place Competitive Abstract Winner, George Perry.

Congratulations to the Competitive Abstract Presentation Winners! (left to right) Tracy Marchie, Wenbo Yan, George Perry, Marco Coutinho da Silva.

Incoming SFT President Dr. Fred Lehman (right) presents Outgoing President, Dr. Gary Althouse with Presidents Plaque.

Newly elected ACT Honorary Member Dr. William Thatcher (left) was introduced by Dr. Maarten Drout (right).

Newly elected ACT Honorary Member Dr. Fuller Bazer was introduced by Dr. Margo Macpherson.

Newly elected ACTHonorary Members Dr. William Thatcher (left) and Dr. Fuller Bazer (right).

Incoming ACT President Dr. Doug Freeman (right) presents Outgoing ACT President, Dr. Dale Paccamonti with Presidents Plaque.

Dr. Wendell Cole, ACT Diplomate with Monsanto, presents the Theriogenologist of the Year Award to Dr. Katrin Hurrichs.
The conference and annual meeting at Columbus this year were outstanding, and many thanks to everyone involved. It was certainly a pleasure to attend the meetings and work with other ACT Board members on issues and projects for the College. It is an honor for me to serve as President, and I want to thank you for the opportunity.

One of the major ACT functions at the meeting was the certifying examination. Eleven of 16 (69%) candidates successfully completed the exam. The following were accepted as Diplomates in the class of 2003: Drs. Mario Baracaldo, Sherrie Clark, Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, Justin Hayna, Ramanathan Kasimanickam, Kory Niswender, Morten Petersen, Debra Sauberli, Kelly Stich, Abdelhalim Q. Talafha, and Konnie Michelle Wendt.

Welcome and congratulations to our new ACT Diplomates!

The College also thanks our examination committee for the tremendous job they have done with the entire examination process. It is a long and difficult job. Hopefully in the future the process can be streamlined through the application of improved software. The Board re-established a sub-committee to continue the process of purchasing and developing new examination software.

In another positive step toward building our College, the examination committee held an early morning informational meeting for anyone interested in taking the certifying exam. The meeting was well attended and provided useful information and suggestions for future candidates. The ACT should continue to look for ways to encourage interested veterinarians to prepare and apply for the certifying exam.

Two new Honorary Diplomates were introduced at the annual business meeting. Dr. Fuller Bazer, from Texas A&M University, and Dr. William Thatcher, from the University of Florida, have made tremendous contributions to the field of reproduction (see this issue of the SFT News for more information). Welcome Drs. Bazer and Thatcher!

Congratulations to Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, who received the 2003 Theriogenologist of the Year Award. Dr. Hinrichs gave an outstanding presentation to a well attended award reception. The schedule for making nominations for Theriogenologist of the Year has changed this year, and calls for nominations are included in this newsletter. Please take a moment and consider nominating a colleague for this important award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Dale Paccamonti for his service as President over the past year. It has been a busy and demanding year, and Dale did a wonderful job. His dedication to ACT is very much appreciated, and I will look forward to his continued leadership on the Board as Past-President. Thanks Dale. I also want to welcome our new ACT Board members: Dr. John Steiner as Vice-President and Dr. Pat Sertich as Director. Thanks to Dr. Margo Macpherson, who completed her tenure as Director. Fortunately we will continue to benefit from her input as President-Elect. Congratulations and welcome Drs. Steiner, Sertich and Macpherson!

One additional thank you and welcome goes to Dr. Charles Franz and the staff at Franz Management. Dr. Franz and his group have been excellent to work with since beginning with ACT and SFT in January. I am personally relieved to have such a talented and helpful management company to work with, and I look forward to their continued contributions to our College. Charles, thanks and welcome!

Over the past year and more, a major area for discussion has been the interaction between ACT and the European College of Animal Reproduction. I wish to thank the ad hoc committee that was charged last year with looking more closely at the College’s association with ECAR. The committee’s efforts are certainly appreciated as we address this important issue. It is clear from their report, and from the many related discussions, that ACT members do see a need to develop ties to ECAR and other international specialty organizations. As we proceed in defining our international relationships, the Board will continue to make sure that we remain in good standing with the ABVS.

It has also become clear that cooperation with other specialty organizations is only part of a larger issue concerning the growth and direction of ACT, residency and certifying examination requirements, symposia and other information exchange. In order to address these fundamental issues for the College, the Board has established two committees to develop recommendations on:

1) Residency training, board preparation, and the credentialing process, and

2) Cooperation in organizing conferences, symposia and information exchange between ACT/SFT and international specialty organizations.

These issues will certainly have a profound effect on the future direction and growth of ACT. Please consider volunteering for one of these committees and make your interest known to me or Dr. Charles Franz.

In another matter related to the future direction of ACT, the Board is currently evaluating a draft job analysis survey submitted by the ad hoc committee charged with developing this document. It will be an extremely valuable tool as we look at ourselves and assess where we as a specialty college need to go. This appears to be an important time for ACT to consider long term strategic planning. The two committees noted above, and this job analysis survey, will help in that process. Please watch for the survey and take time to provide your responses.

Looking forward to the coming year, I believe we face two general issues. One is to continue to get our house in order, so to speak, and improve the workings of the College. Our new management company and Executive Director will certainly be a large part of the process, and the Board is addressing related topics that will continue to make ACT a strong and viable organization. The second is a long range need to address our specialty and its role in the entire profession. This will affect our future as a College, the process of attracting and training new Diplomates, recognition of the valuable role ACT Diplomates have in many areas of the profession. I again invite and urge you to participate in this process and volunteer to serve on one of the new committees. I am looking forward to the coming year and again thank you for the opportunity to serve the College.
SOCIETY FOR THERIOGENOLOGY
2003-2004 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Dr. Douglas Freeman
ND State University
150 Van Es Hall
1523 Centennial Blvd
Fargo, ND  58105
Phone: 701/231-8504
Fax: 701/231-7514
douglas.freeman@ndsu.nodak.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Dr. Margo Macpherson
Univ of FL CVM
Dept of Lg Animal Clin Sci
Box 100136
Gainesville, FL  32610
Phone: 352/392-4700 4000
Fax: 352/392-8289
macphersonml@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT
Dr. John Steiner
Hagyard, Davidson, and McGee
4250 Iron Works Pk
Lexington, KY  40511
Phone: 859/255-8741
Fax: 859/253-0196
jvsdvm@aol.com

SECRETARY
Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
Univ of MN CVM
Dept of Small Animal Clinical Sciences
1352 Boyd Ave, C339 VTH
St Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 612/624-7290
Fax: 612/624-0751
rootk001@umn.edu

TREASURER
Dr. Don Sanders
Urbana Vet Clinic Inc
985 Norwood Ave
Urbana, OH 43078
Phone: 937/653-7326
Fax: 937/652-2060
urbanavc@foryou.net

PAST PRESIDENT
Dr. Dale Paccamonti
Louisiana State Univ, SVM
Dept of Clinical Sciences
Baton Rouge, LA  70803
Phone: 225/578-9519
Fax: 225/578-9559
pacc@lsu.edu

DIRECTORS

2003 ACT DIPLOMATES

The 2003 Certifying Examinations of the American College of Theriogenologists was held September 16-17, 2003 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

The following is a list of individuals that sat for the 2003 exams and have met the requirements needed to become a Diplomate of ACT. Please help us in congratulating them on their accomplishment!

* Mario Baracaldo, Ontario, Canada
* Sherrie G. Clark, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
* Marco Coutinho daSilva, Fort Collins, Colorado
* Justin Hayna, Gainesville, Florida
* Ramanathan Kasimanickam, Ontario Veterinary College, Ontario, Canada
* Kory Niswender, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado
* Morton Petersen, University of California-Davis, Davis, California
* Debra Sauberli, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
* Kelly Stich, Manhatten, KS
* Abdelsalam Talafha, Irbid, Jordan
* Konnie M. Wendt, Houston, Texas

Make sure to mark your calendar, for SFT’s Future Meetings

SFT Annual Conference & Symposium
Hyatt Hotel, Lexington, KY
AUGUST 4-8, 2004
THERIOGENOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT, of Texas A&M University received the 2003 Theriogenologist of the Year Award at the annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Hinrichs is recognized for her research in embryo physiology and cloning in horses.

Dr. Hinrichs is a devoted teacher and leader in the lecture hall, laboratory, and clinics. Her accomplishments in the research arena are also well known. Her publication list is expansive and represents both basic and clinical investigations. She has developed methods for utilizing ovariec-tomized mares as embryo-transfer recipients, devised techniques for intrafollicular transfer of immature horse oocytes, and advanced the understanding of molecular/cellular events that control equine oocyte maturation.

Dr. Hinrichs’ current research involves oocyte meiotic competence, IVF, and nuclear transfer in horses. She conducts this research while teaching in the undergraduate and professional programs, and working with clinical services in Theriogenology.

She received her DVM from University of California – Davis in 1978, and a PhD from University of Pennsylvania in 1988. Dr. Hinrichs received her ACT Diplomate status in 1984. She currently serves as Professor with a joint appointment in the Departments of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery and Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University.

Some of Dr. Hinrichs’ honors include, The Richard H. Davis Teaching Award, Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine; Outstanding Faculty Award, Faculty Commencement Speaker, Phi Zeta Honor Society - Alpha Beta Chapter, and SmithKline Beecham Award for Research Excellence while at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine; the Hamilton-Thorne Award, Fifth International Symposium on Equine Reproduction, Deauville, France; Phi Zeta Honor Society - Lambda Chapter, California Thoroughbred Breeders Scholarship, and the George S. Hart Memorial Scholarship while at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine.

ABVS Update

Just a brief comment to let Diplomates know that November 1, 2003, is the deadline for ACT’s annual and five-year reports to the ABVS. I am serving as chairperson of the ABVS and its executive committee this year. It would be frightfully embarrassing to have our reports be late; worse yet to have their content questioned. For those of you of whom I requested assistance in completing portions of the reports and who have provided it, you have my sincere thanks. It really is a team effort of involved Diplomates, especially of those serving in leadership positions. Thank you for allowing me to represent you the past ten years,

Carla L. Carleton, Chairperson/ACT liaison, American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS)
It has been my privilege to serve you for another year in the AVMA House of Delegates (HOD). Dr. Lawson and I were both active in the two gatherings of the Allied Group (Delegates & alternate Delegates of each non-state membership group represented in the HOD) this past year. As chairperson of the Allied Group this past year, I had an opportunity to plan these sessions before the HOD met. We took advantage of the opportunity presented by our gentle coalition, each of whom has but two votes. When our efforts are united and we act in concert, the strength of our voice increases dramatically, representing a total of 32 votes, more than most States.* Allied members represent many important voices in veterinary medicine (SFT, AABP, AAEP, AAFV, AAVN, AASRP, ASLAP, NAFV, etc.) and the depth and relevance of our counsel aids in an informed discussion of many contentious topics (read: resolutions) on the floor of the HOD.

* only CA (42) and TX (34) have more votes
resolutions) on the floor of the HOD.

Guardianship versus ownership: There is a push by PETA & ARV to use the courts, to pick sympathetic judges to force social change, and guardianship is the goal. One goal of PETA is no live animal surgeries in teaching programs. AAHA has established a new Animal Welfare Task Force to address this and other issues.

• The push for the use of animal alternatives in teaching is not a bad thing. Recent targets have been UCD, CSU and IL. USDA has recently cited many veterinary schools for “unacceptable standards for using live animals.” Once cited, a program has 90-days until it will be revisited. USDA’s actions are to avoid an AVAR lawsuit. While a comment was made that all veterinary schools will be targeted, Dr. Peter Haynes stated that LSU’s recent inspection was “benign.”

• Of interest, USDA has no Laboratory Animal Diplomates (ACLAM) in its employ.

• PETA is also advising activists to urge their veterinarians to withdraw from AVMA membership.

Recommendations/thoughts of HOD members:

• AVMA probably needs to spend as much money on NPR promoting Vet Med as it did on the KPMG study.

• Develop fact sheets. Will require a very organized framework to educate the public. PR spots, brochures, benefits derived from research, food safety, discussions re: humane slaughter, downer animals, etc.

• We are many professions under one professional umbrella. There is a need to pull together, for all of us to be more informed and supportive of AVMA’s goals across the span of Vet Med.

Re-examination of VM accreditation globally: Dr. Herbert Schneider, President, World Veterinary Association:

• Of 42 Vet Med schools in Mexico, only 7 meet Mexican standards.

• Eastern European countries, African countries – there is a need for Vet Med certifying bodies and standards, procedures, etc.

• We in the USA need to become better informed about the education level of foreign grads, it varies widely.

• Note: the 2005 World Veterinary Congress will be held in the USA in conjunction with the AVMA (Minneapolis).

James Peddie, AVMA Treasurer
• Requested a $25 increase in dues.

This is the result of a number of factors: the slow economy, decreased occupancy of the Schaumburg, IL building, and a decrease in advertising revenue for JAVMA.

• AVMA has decreased its staff positions. 11 of 119 budgeted/funded AVMA staff positions are open. Dollars were cut back in 2003 (an additional $1 million).

• The 2004 AVMA budget, without the dues increase will bring income of $21,588,700; expenses of $21,515,200; leaving a safety margin of $73,560. That is only 3/10 of 1 percent and AVMA requires reserves to be at 50-150% of the annual budget.

All of us need be mindful that we have opportunity to positively influence young students, to recruit & be mentors:

• Fewer people are coming to vet med from agricultural backgrounds.

• Either we recruit more efficiently, or our replacements providing animal health care will not be coming from the ranks of veterinary medicine, but will instead be animal scientists, veterinary technicians, and those graduating from lay programs & weekend A.I. courses.

• DVMs will remain an important link between agriculture, the general public and the legislative branch (at both national & state levels).

• Check out the AVMA website on a regular basis. If it isn’t meeting your needs, tell the AVMA. Our communication with the public is crucial. The web site is registering 1.5 million visits per month – the public is watching us.

• Congressional Fellows: We are attempting to get a Fellow assigned to the Executive Branch of government.

• Government Relations Division (GRD)

o Must continue to support congressional candidates who support Veterinary Medicine

o We can each be involved in building coalitions to strengthen Vet Med.

o Expect some strange bedfellows. HSUS originally opposed the MUMS bill. Upon lengthy upon discussion with the AVMA, HSUS lifted its opposition and supports MUMS.

Be active and involved and make your voice be heard. Veterinarians have much at stake and a lot to offer. Thank you, Carla L. Carleton, SFT Delegate.
Call for Nominations

The American College of Theriogenologists is seeking nominations for “Theriogenologist Of The Year,” an award developed to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of reproductive research and clinical theriogenology. The award, funded by the Monsanto Corporation, is accompanied by a plaque and monetary honorarium ($1500). Selection is based on the merit of scholarly and/or professional endeavors and the significance of contributions to the veterinary community, as described in materials submitted by nominators and candidates.

Candidates must be ACT Diplomates in good standing and must be currently engaged in clinical animal reproduction. Candidates’ scientific/professional achievements must be nationally recognized through books, journals, meetings, etc. Nominations may only be made by Diplomates of ACT or members of the Society for Theriogenology.

The ACT Executive Board encourages the nomination of ACT members in private practice, as well as Diplomates in academia and industry. Because of the tremendous diversity of professional activities among the members of ACT, the award will alternate annually between candidates with expertise in basic reproductive science (odd-numbered years) and candidates with expertise in clinical animal reproduction (even-numbered years).

Nominations, including documentation outlined in the Award Nomination Form, will be accepted until December 15, 2003. Nominators must also procure letters of recommendation from two of the candidate’s peers and submit them to the ACT office by December 15.

After December 15, candidates will be contacted for: (1) a current curriculum vitae; and (2) two or three manuscripts and/or documents validating their current scholarly activity. Candidates must have submitted all materials to the ACT office by January 15, 2004.

The Executive Board will review the candidates’ qualifications and select the recipient. Selection of the recipient and concurrent notification will be made no later than 30 days prior to the ACT/SFT Annual Conference. The Award will be presented at the SFT/ACT annual conference in August, 2004.

By December 15, 2003: Please submit this form with a letter describing in detail the candidate’s contributions; include current research and/or clinical activity, lists of refereed articles, books and presentations at national meetings, and any other relevant information regarding the candidate’s professionalism and the significance of his or her expertise to our profession. Provide two letters of recommendation from the candidate’s peers. Your nominee will not be considered if letters are not received by this deadline.

Candidate’s Name: ____________________________________________
Candidate’s Business Address: ________________________________________

Candidate’s Phone: _____________________________________________
Candidate’s e-mail: _____________________________________________

Nominator’s Name: _____________________________________________
Nominator’s Business Address: ________________________________________

Nominator’s Phone: _____________________________________________
Nominator’s e-mail: _____________________________________________

Send form and supporting documentation to: Executive Board
American College of Theriogenologists
P.O. Box 3065, Montgomery, AL 36109
334-395-4666 • 334-270-3399 (fax)
MAKE YOUR PLANS FOR THE 2004 MEETING

Mark your calendars now for the 2004 SFT Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, August 4-8.

The SFT Board of Directors selected Kentucky horse country for our late summer meeting which will not be held in conjunction with another organization. Lexington is easily accessible by air or car. The conference will be held in the brand new Hyatt Hotel and Convention Center, an outstanding meeting facility which provides a superb environment for continuing education.

The program session chairs include Dr. Gary Warner (food animal), Dr. Ana Adams and Dr. Jane Barber (small animal), Dr. Jim Brendemuehl (equine), who are developing an outstanding program. Again this year the program will focus on using Theriogenology to add value to your practice. The program will offer a mix of lectures, research abstracts and case presentations to provide up-to-date useful ideas to augment your practice. Dr. Michelle LeBlanc will chair an Equine Neonatology Symposium and Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz will chair a Canine Neonatology Symposium on Saturday.

An awards luncheon and an evening social will allow time to renew acquaintances as well as the opportunity to meet new friends and colleagues interested in Theriogenology. All of this takes place in beautiful eastern Kentucky, the heart of horse country. There will be opportunity for tours of the Kentucky Horse Park and some of the world-renowned, legendary horse breeding farms.

So, mark your calendars now to ensure that you join us in the heart of horse country. Whatever your species of choice, this program is sure to provide a unique learning opportunity, in an excellent facility, loaded with southern hospitality. The social activities should appeal to all members of the family.

See you in Lexington!

Dr. Dwight Wolfe
2004 Conference Chair

A Tribute to Dr. Don Hudson
Contributed by Dale M. Grotelueschen, DVM, MS

Dr. Don Hudson, of North Platte, Nebraska, President of the Society for Theriogenology in 1976-78, died July 30, 2003, at Benkelman, Nebraska. Dr. Hudson practiced in Benkelman as owner of Twin Forks Veterinary Hospital following graduation from Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1960. He accepted his position as Extension Veterinarian with the University of Nebraska in 1976 and moved with his family to North Platte. He earned his Master’s degree in Clinical Sciences in 1987 from Colorado State University. He retired from the University of Nebraska in 1997, completing a veterinary career that spanned four decades.

Dr. Hudson was a model veterinarian and gentleman. He also served as President of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners in 1988, was a member of the Nebraska Board of Veterinary Examiners and served on numerous committees during his career. He received the President’s Award from the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association in 1995.

Don was a devoted family man. He and his wife LaVonne were married for over 49 years and were parents of 2 children, Marta Hudson Ramsey, Overland Park, KS and Nick Hudson, Strasburg, CO. He enjoyed steer roping in the Senior Steer Roping Association, ranching, and restoring his ranch home during retirement years. He was a member of the Methodist church and among his many activities served communities by building houses for Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Don Hudson will be remembered for his leadership contributions through his participation in organized veterinary medicine, his advancements in bovine herd health concepts, his encouragement to veterinary colleagues young and old, and especially his positive outlook on life and priorities of his church, family and profession.
ATTENTION: EQUINE MEMBERS

We Solicit Your Input

The elements of the standard Stallion Breeding Soundness Examination were defined by the Society for Theriogenology in 1983 by Dr. R.M. Kenney et al. The criteria and recommendations have not been revisited since. Due to increasing book sizes of stallions, dual hemisphere breeding and varied management schemes, it is time to reevaluate this examination. To this end, we have developed a brief questionnaire listing the various portions of the Stallion Breeding Soundness Examination to determine the value and significance placed on these examinations. Additionally, we need to determine how the accumulated data is interpreted. Can we put stallions in “neat” separate categories (i.e. Satisfactory, Questionable, Unsatisfactory) or does some other form of interpretation and categorization need to be put in place.

We realize that this is a complex issue and your input is desperately needed to help define this issue. Please send your comments via email to us at the addresses below or we can be reached by telephone. We will then send you the questionnaire. Please take the time to help with this project.

Sincerely,

John V. Steiner, DVM, Dipl ACT
jvsdvm@aol.com
(859) 255-8741

Peter C. Sheerin, DVM, Dipl ACT
psheerin@roodandriddle.com
(859) 233-0371
Please Use This Updated Form for all of Your Fall Breeding and Semen Evaluation Needs

SOCIETY FOR THERIOGENOLOGY
ORDER FORM

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DR. FULLER BAZER

Dr. Bazer is a world-renowned investigator in the field of reproductive physiology. Dr. Bazer obtained a B.S. in Biology from Centenary College of Louisiana and a M.S. in Animal Science from Louisiana State University in 1963. Dr. Bazer continued his studies at North Carolina State University where he was awarded a Ph.D. in Animal Science in 1969. Dr. Bazer was a member of the faculty at the University of Florida from 1968 to 1992 where he held a dual appointment as Graduate Research Professor in the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Pediatrics. In 1992, Dr. Bazer moved to Texas A&M University as a Professor and O.D. Butler Chair in the Department of Animal Science as well as the Director of the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics. At this time, Dr. Bazer was also the Editor-In-Chief of the journal Biology of Reproduction. Between 1994 and 2001, Dr. Bazer acted as Director of the Institute of Biosciences and Technology at Texas A&M University. Dr. Bazer currently serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Executive Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Associate Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Bazer's contributions to the field of reproductive biology are in uterine biology, peri-implantation events for establishment of pregnancy, pregnancy recognition signaling molecules in pigs and ruminants, and fetal-placental development to increase reproductive efficiency. He has received several awards including American Society of Animal Science Physiology and Endocrinology Award, Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award, Biotechnology 94 Award, American Society of Animal Science L.E. Casida Award for Graduate Education, Gamma Sigma Delta International Distinguished Achievement Award in Agriculture, Texas A&M University System Regents Fellow, Society for the Study of Reproduction Distinguished Service Award, Texas A&M University and the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Research, Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in Agriculture, and Vice Chancellor for Agriculture Award in Excellence for Research. Most recently, Dr. Bazer was awarded the International Wolf Prize in Agriculture to be shared with Dr. Michael Roberts of the University of Missouri.

DR. WILLIAM THATCHER

The 2002 recipient of the Merial Dairy Management Award is Dr. William W. Thatcher of the Dept. of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, for his work to develop novel approaches regulating reproductive function in dairy cattle and for his efforts in translating this research into practical, on-farm methods for improving reproductive performance in lactating dairy cows. A native of Baltimore, Dr. Thatcher received his B.S. in Animal Science from the University of Maryland in 1963. He received the M.S. from the University of Maryland in 1965 and the Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1968. Thatcher joined the faculty of the Dairy Science Department of the University of Florida in 1969. He rose rapidly through the ranks and obtained his current position of Graduate Research Professor in 1988.

Dr. Thatcher is one of the world's leading authorities on bovine reproduction. His research has concentrated primarily on two windows in the reproductive life cycle of the cow: ovarian follicular development and maternal-embryonic communication during early pregnancy. Thatcher has also studied the role that nutritional status (specifically energy balance and metabolic hormones) and heat stress play in affecting physiological processes controlling ovarian function and embryonic development. Dr. Thatcher and others have used information generated from his research to produce breakthrough discoveries in methods for reproductive management of dairy cattle. Perhaps Thatcher's greatest single accomplishment has been the development and application of timed artificial insemination technologies. These technologies, which are rapidly becoming adopted by dairy producers throughout the world, are largely the results of efforts by two independent laboratories -

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists are issuing a call for research abstracts to be presented at the Annual Conference Proceedings. Deadline for submission is to be March 15, 2004 and presenters will be notified by May 15, 2004. For further information, visit the Society for Theriogenology website (therio.org), or contact Dr. Charles Franz, Executive Director of the SFT/ACT; 334-395-4666 or charles@franzmg.com.
ABSTRACTS

The first five abstracts in this issue are provided by Dr. Robert Youngquist. Other abstracts are provided by Dr. Craig Smith. The Society wishes to thank them for their contributions.

Additional evaluation of undiagnosed bovine abortion cases may reveal fetal neosporosis.


Diagnosis of Neospora caninum associated bovine abortion is often made by histological examination of fetal tissues, although this procedure is not very sensitive. One hundred and forty-four undiagnosed bovine abortion cases were evaluated for N. caninum associated bovine abortion using a revised diagnostic protocol. As a result, 12 (8.3%) of these previously undiagnosed bovine abortion cases were definitively diagnosed as N. caninum positive. The 12 new positive cases included 7 that had exhibited histological lesions, and 5 that had not exhibited histological lesions when examined prior to this study. None of the 12 cases had been immunohistochemically stained prior to this study. Also, IHC staining implemented during this research revealed tachyzoites without associated histological lesions in at least 1 tissue from 69 (47.9%) of 144 aborted bovine fetuses, and positive IHC staining of cytoplasmic N. caninum antigen in macrophages in at least 1 tissue from 44 (30.6%) of 144 aborted bovine fetuses. These results demonstrate the necessity for more aggressive evaluation of bovine fetuses for neosporosis.

The effect of coitus and of artificial insemination on uterine contractions in mares: A review.


The speed with which sperm can be identified in the tip of the uterine horns and the oviducts following coitus and artificial insemination in the mare suggests that there is a mechanism for passive transportation of sperm in this species. Studies using electromyography, scintigraphy and M-mode ultrasonography demonstrate that both coitus and artificial insemination increase uterine contractile activity. Uterine contractions following coitus and artificial insemination move sperm in a circular motion within the uterus. The contractile effect of artificial insemination, however, appears to be dependant upon the volume of the inseminate.

Ultrasonography study of the postpartum uterine involution in bitches after cesarean section.


Fifteen pregnant bitches were observed by serial B-mode (real time) ultrasonography to describe the characteristics and diameter of the involuting uterus on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 21 post-cesarean. The average and standard deviation, in centimeters, presented on those days after cesarean section, were, respectively 3.99+/-0.71, 3.27+/-0.51, 2.60+/-0.54; 2.01+/-0.34 and 1.28+/-0.24. Under the conditions of this report it is concluded that cesarean section did not influence normal uterine involution.

Detection of EHV-1 and EHV-4 in placental sections of naturally occurring EHV-1- and EHV-4-related abortions in the UK: use of the placenta in diagnosis.


Reasons for performing study: EHV-1 and EHV-4 abortion diagnosis is based upon detailed examination of the aborted fetus. However, in some cases, only the placenta is available for examination. Furthermore, the contribution of lesions in the placenta to pathogenesis and diagnosis of EHV-1 and EHV-4 abortion has been neglected. Objectives: To assess the utility of placental examination in equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) and EHV-4 abortion diagnosis. Methods: Sections of allantochorion from 49 herpesvirus abortions were analyzed by PCR, in situ hybridization and immunostaining. Results: Virus-specific nested PCR confirmed the presence of viral DNA in 46 cases; 41 cases were EHV-1-positive and 5 EHV-4-positive. Microscopic changes were nonspecific. Examination of the PCR-positive sections of allantochorion revealed EHV-1 DNA by in situ hybridization (ISH) in 21 cases and EHV-4 in 4 cases. In 2 samples, DNA of both viruses was present on PCR and ISH. Viral antigen was found by immunohistology in 15 cases. Regarding the localization of virus in the placenta, both viral DNA and antigen of EHV-1 and EHV-4 were found in endothelial cells of chorionic villi and, occasionally, in trophoblast epithelium. In the stromal endothelium, only EHV-1 was found. Conclusions: The data indicate that examination of placenta is a useful diagnostic aid in EHV-1 and EHV-4 abortion diagnosis. Potential relevance: Virological examination of the placenta should become standard practice in equine abortion investigations, particularly in those cases where the fetus is not available for examination.
ABSTRACTS

The effect of intraterine administration of estradiol on postpartum uterine involution in cattle.


In cattle, the first postpartum dominant follicle has a predilection for the ovary contralateral to the previously gravid uterine horn. However, the presence of an estradiol-secreting dominant follicle in the ipsilateral ovary is a marker of subsequent fertility, possibly due to a localized effect of ovarian estradiol on uterine involution. The present study tested the hypothesis that estradiol increases the rate of uterine involution when administered into the previously gravid uterine horn around the expected time of selection of the first postpartum dominant follicle. Dairy cows were treated with 10 mg estradiol benzoate (n = 15) or saline (n = 14) administered through the cervix into the previously gravid uterine horn on Days 7 and 10 postpartum. Uterine involution was monitored by daily transrectal ultrasonography and estimation of peripheral plasma concentrations of PGFM and acute phase proteins, while ovarian function was monitored by ultrasonography and measurement of plasma hormone concentrations. There was no effect of estradiol treatment on the diameter of the previously gravid or non-gravid uterine horns, nor on the plasma concentrations of PGFM or acute phase proteins. However, cows in which the first postpartum dominant follicle ovulated during the study period had a smaller diameter of the previously gravid (P < 0.01) or non-gravid uterine horns (P < 0.001) compared with cows in which the follicle regressed. Thus, our hypothesis was not proven, and the opposite pathway of utero-ovarian signaling may be more important during the postpartum period.-30-


Reasons for performing study: A detailed review of laboratory records for equine abortion is fundamental in establishing current disease trends and suggesting problems important for further research. Objectives: To review the causes of abortion and neonatal death in equine diagnostic submissions to the Animal Health Trust over a 10 year period. Methods: The diagnoses in 1252 equine fetus and neonatal foals were reviewed and analyzed into categories. Results: Problems associated with the umbilical cord, comprising umbilical cord torsion and the long cord/cervical pole ischemia disorder, were the most common diagnoses (38.8%: 35.7% umbilical cord torsion and 3.1% long cord/cervical pole ischemia disorder). Other noninfective causes of abortion or neonatal death included twinning (6.0%), intrapartum stillbirth (15.7%) and placentitis, associated with infection (9.8%). E. coli and Streptococcus zooepidemicus were the most common bacteria isolated. Neonatal infections not associated with placentitis accounted for 3.2% of incidents; and infections with EHV-1 or EHV-4 for 6.5%. Conclusions: Definitive diagnosis of equine abortion is possible in the majority of cases where the whole fetus and placenta are submitted for examination. Potential relevance: Given the high incidence of umbilical cord torsion and related problems as causes of abortion in UK broodmares, more research on factors determining umbilical cord length and risk of torsion is essential.-30-

Relationship between endogenous progesterone and follicular dynamics in lactating dairy cows with ovarian follicular cysts


Two experiments were conducted to examine circulating concentrations of progesterone (P4) in cows with ovarian follicular cysts (OFCs) and to relating differing levels of P4 to subsequent follicular events. In experiment 1, peripheral concentrations of P4 were determined in cows diagnosed with OFCs. Nonpregnant, lactating Holstein and Jersey cows (n = 52) were diagnosed as having OFCs by rectal palpation. Ovarian follicular cysts were then examined by transrectal ultrasonography to confirm the presence of OFCs (follicle diameter, ≥ 17 mm; absence of luteal tissue). At confirmation, a blood sample was collected for quantification of P4. The concentration of P4 at confirmation was classified as low (< 0.1 ng/ml), intermediate (0.1-1.0 ng/ml), or high (1.0-2.0 ng/ml). More OFCs were associated with intermediate (66%) than with either low (28%) or high (6%) concentrations of P4. In experiment 2, the fate of follicles (diameter, ≥ 10 mm) that formed in the presence of an OFC was determined and related to circulating concentrations of P4 during follicular development. Follicles (n = 59) that formed in the presence of an OFC ovulated (n = 19), formed a cyst (n = 30), or underwent normal growth and regression (NGR, n = 10). Endogenous P4 in the 7-day period during follicular development was classified as low (if P4 dropped to < 0.1 ng/ml for 1 day or longer), intermediate (if P4 averaged between 0.1 and 1.0 ng/ml and never dropped to < 0.1 ng/ml), or high (if P4 averaged > 1.0 ng/ml and never dropped to < 0.1 ng/ml). In the presence of intermediate P4, 75% of observed follicles formed cysts, compared with 10% that ovulated and 15% that experienced NGR. In the presence of low P4, 53%, 41%, and 6% of follicles ovulated, formed a follicular cyst, or experienced NGR, respectively. Thus, an association between intermediate P4 and the formation of OFCs was established.
The aim of this study was to compare two protocols for estrus synchronization in suckled beef cows over a 2-year period. The population studied consisted of 172 Charolais and 168 Limousin cows from 12 and 14 herds, respectively. In each herd, cows were allotted to groups according to parity, body condition score, and calving difficulty. Cows in group 1 (n = 174) received PRID on Day –8 with estradiol benzoate (10 mg, vaginal capsule), dinoprost on day –4 (25 mg i.m.), and eCG on day 2 (500 IU i.m.). The PRID was removed on day –2, and cows were inseminated on day 0, 56 hours after PRID was removed. Cows in group 2 (n = 166) received GnRH on day –10 (100 mg i.m.), dinoprost on day –3 (25 mg i.m.), and GnRH on day –1 (100 mg i.m.) and were inseminated on day 0, 16–24 hours after the last GnRH treatment. Plasma progesterone concentrations were measured to determine cyclicality prior to treatment (days –20 and –10), to confirm the occurrence of ovulation (days 0 and 10), and to determine the apparent early pregnancy rate (days 0, 10, and 24). Pregnancy diagnosis was performed by ultrasonography between days 35 and 45. The effects of various factors on ovulation, apparent early pregnancy rate, and pregnancy rate were studied using logistic mixed models. There was no significant difference between groups 1 and 2, respectively, for the cyclicity rate before treatment (80.5% versus 80.1%), for the cyclicity rate after treatment (80.9% versus 80.1%), or apparent pregnancy rate on day 24 (62.1% versus 54.8%; P = 0.09), and for pregnancy rate on days 35–45 (53.8% versus 46.8%; P = 0.16). Ovulation rate was higher (P < 0.01) in group 1 (90.8%) than in group 2 (77.1%) and was affected by cyclicity prior to treatment in group 2 but not in group 1 (group 1: 88.2% in anestrous cows versus 91.4% in cyclic cows; group 2: 45.5% in anestrous cows versus 85.0% in cyclic cows; P interaction = 0.05). Apparent pregnancy rates on day 24 were influenced by the year of study (52.4% versus 68.8%; OR = 2.12; P < 0.01) and by the cyclicity before treatment (anestrous cows 46.3% versus cyclic cows 61.5%; OR = 1.86; P < 0.05). Pregnancy rates at 35–45 days were influenced by the year of study (44.2% versus 59.8%; OR = 1.92; P < 0.01). In conclusion, although pregnancy rates were similar for the two treatments, the combination of GnRH + PGF2α + GnRH in suckled beef cows induced a lower rate of ovulation than treatment with PRID + PGF2α, particularly in anestrous cows.

**Ovulation rate after GnRH or PGF2α administration in early postpartum dairy cows**


The objectives of this study evaluating induction of ovulation in early postpartum dairy cows were to: compare two methods of GnRH (100 mcg) administration (i.m. route and s.c. implant), and determine if prostaglandin F2α (PGF) causes release of LH or ovulation similar to that reported for GnRH. In trial No. 1, serum LH peaked at 2 hours after i.m. administration of GnRH and was declining at 4 hours. The s.c. GnRH implant also caused an elevation in serum LH at 2 and 4 hours after treatment, with LH declining at 6 hours. Serum LH was unchanged in control cows. Experimental treatment caused ovulation in 4 of 14 GnRH i.m. treated cows, 4 of 12 GnRH implanted cows, and 0 of 13 control cows. Parity had no effect on LH response but did affect resulting ovulation rate, as multiparous cows were more likely to ovulate than were primiparous cows in response to either GnRH treatment. All cows that ovulated had a follicle larger than 12 mm at the time of treatment. In trial No. 2, serum LH increased as before after i.m. administration of GnRH; however, serum LH was unchanged in cows treated with PGF or saline. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone caused more cows to ovulate than did PGF or saline treatments, and GnRH shortened the interval from treatment to the onset of CL function over the PGF treatment; 13.9 ± 2.6, 28.2 ± 4.1, and 22.3 ± 4.1 days for GnRH, PGF, and saline, respectively. In summary, there was no obvious difference in the ability of s.c. implantation and i.m. administration of GnRH to cause ovulation. Prostaglandin F2α did not cause release of LH or ovulation. In 22 early postpartum dairy cows treated with 100 mcg GnRH i.m. in these two trials, nearly all cows (95%) responded with a release of LH, but only 45% (10/22) responded with an ovulation and subsequent formation of a CL.

**Effect of time of ovulation and sperm concentration on fertilization rate in gilts**


In normal production practices, sows and gilts are inseminated at least twice during estrus because the timing of ovulation is variable relative to the onset of estrus. The objective of this study was to determine if a normal fertilization rate could be achieved with a single insemination of low sperm number given at a precise interval relative to the onset of estrus. The objective of this study was to determine if a normal fertilization rate could be achieved with a single insemination of low sperm number given at a precise interval relative to the onset of estrus. Gilts (n = 59) were randomly assigned to one of three treatment groups: low dose (LD; one insemination, 0.5 X 109 spermatozoa), high dose (HD; one insemination, 3 X 109 spermatozoa), or multiple dose (MD; two inseminations, 3 X 109 spermatozoa per insemination). Twice-daily estrus detection (0:600 and 18:00 hours) was performed using fence-line boar contact and backpressure testing. Transrectal ultrasonography was performed every 6 hours beginning at the detection of the onset of standing estrus and continuing until ovulation. Gilts in the LD and HD groups were inseminated 22 hours after detection of estrus; MD gilts received inseminations at 10 and 22 hours after detection of estrus. Inseminations were administered by using an insemination catheter, and semen was deposited into the cervix. The uterus was flushed on day 5 after the onset of estrus, and the number of corpora lutea, oocytes, and embryos were counted. Time of insemination relative to ovulation was designated as 0 to > 24 hours, 24 to > 12 hours, and 12 to 0 hours before ovulation and > 0 hours after ovulation. The LD gilts had fewer embryos (P < 0.04), more unfertilized oocytes (P < 0.05), and a lower fertilization rate (P < 0.07), compared to MD gilts. The effects of time of insemination relative to ovulation and the treatment-by-time interaction were not significant. We conclude that a cervical insemination with low spermatozoa concentration may not result in acceptable fertility even when precisely timed relative to ovulation.
The Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois seeks applicants for a full-time, tenure-track or clinical faculty position in Theriogenology in the Farm Animal Reproduction, Medicine, and Surgery (FARMS) section. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. Applications must be received by January 15, 2004. Applicants are encouraged to apply. The University of Illinois is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Please note the following short courses that will be held at the University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA 19348:

- December 5-6, 2003: Horse Behavior
- February 6-7, 2004: Horse Behavior

Course information and registration materials are located at: http://www2.vet.upenn.edu/labs/equinebehavior/02-03courses/crs02-03.htm

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital
Internship Programs, Lexington, Kentucky, October 2003
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital will offer 4 ambulatory intern positions for the 2004-2005 internship year.

The ambulatory interns work primarily with the four most senior ambulatory clinicians, the two theriogenologists, and the podiatry clinician. The interns will assist and observe routine reproductive work, neonatal and foal evaluation and medicine, basic lameness exams, radiology, purchase exams, and sales work. They will also rotate on emergency duty.

These internships are intended to provide each intern with the foundation to pursue a residency program or enter ambulatory practice.

For salary, benefits, and additional information, please see our internship program listing posted in Avenues on the American Association of Equine Practitioners website (www.aaepp.org).

To apply for an internship position starting June, 2004, please send a curriculum vitae, letter of intent, and 3 letters of reference to Dr. Tom Riddle at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, P.O. Box 12070, Lexington, KY 40580.

The deadline for application is December 12, 2003.

Fourth veterinarian needed for general equine practice that is predominantly reproduction; 50% ambulatory and 50% in clinic. We currently stand 5 stallions; foal 80 mares; embryo transfer with large recipient herd; and fresh, cooled, and frozen semen breeding; all breeds of horses involved. Two veterinarians are ACT diplomates. Part-time position from January through July, or full-time position available. Interest in general medicine and dentistry a plus. Send resume to Dr. John P. Hurtgen, Nandi Veterinary Associates LLC, 3244 W. Stieling Road, New Freedom, PA 17349, 717-235-3798, fax 717-227-9853 or email jhurtgen@nandivet.com.