



HORSE HEALTH NUTRITION

5th Edition

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European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress

Press release: 200 delegates from 21 countries celebrate the 5th meeting of the EEHNC with the focus on “Feeding the Muscles”

Over 200 delegates from 21 countries attended the 5th anniversary of the European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress (EEHNC) that was hosted by the city of Waregem (Belgium). Internationally recognized specialists in nutrition, exercise physiology and veterinary sciences as well as veterinarians, industry representatives and equine professionals attended this meeting. Delegates participated in practical workshops and the congress focused on “Feeding the Muscles”. The first day of this congress was dedicated to the relationship between nutrition and muscle performance of healthy horses (Friday, April 15). Additionally the training and overall health of these horses were also discussed. The following day was dedicated to the nutrition and health of horses with specific muscle problems. Participants followed practical workshops and were given a demonstration of a recently developed mobile endoscopy technique allowing real-time upper airway endoscopy of horses during exercise. Prior to the start of the congress, an exhibition organized by the city of Waregem and dedicated to the history of equine veterinary medicine was opened on April 14 to welcome the 5th EEHNC delegates.

The first EEHNC was an initiative of Cavalor and took place in Antwerp in 2000. Currently, the 5th EEHNC was organized in cooperation with the departments from the Faculty of Veterinary medicine of Ghent University, Utrecht University and the University of Liège. The Animal Science Group (Wageningen University and Research Centre) was also involved.

The Poster award was given to Femke Schaafstra (Utrecht University). She received a 500 Euro cheque from Peter Bollen, President of the EEHNC, for her abstract entitled “Evaluation of three digestibility markers in ponies fed four different qualities of grass hay”. The study is part of the PhD research project of Ms. Schaafstra which aims to develop and validate a marker technique allowing for easy determination of digestibility values of feedstuffs for horses. (Picture: PhD student Femke Schaafstra receives a 500 Euro cheque from Mr. Peter Bollen, President of the EEHNC; Left: Prof. Geert Janssen, chairman of the scientific committee of the 5th EEHNC).

To welcome the 5th EEHNC delegates to Waregem and to celebrate the 250th world anniversary of veterinary education, the Waregem city council organized an exhibition related to the history of equine veterinary medicine. This exhibition opened before the start of the congress and will remain open until May 15, 2011. Various research partners in the EEHNC organization and affiliated libraries and museums also took part in this exhibition.

The proceedings of the European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress are also available as a booklet. The proceedings booklet contains reviews of the invited speaker sessions and abstracts from the poster session. Information about the congress and order information regarding the proceedings can be obtained from <http://www.equine-congress.com>

Note for the editorial board

More information about this congress can be obtained from dhr. Dr. Ing. D.A. van Doorn M.Sc. E-mail: David.van.doorn@equine-congress.com Tel: +31 (0) 30-2533474. A more in-depth article may be requested (English) that highlights the most important take-home messages and practical information that can be derived from this congress. Please e-mail david.van.doorn@equine-congress.com if you are interested in providing extended information about this congress on your website, journal or other form of media.

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