AAEP Foundation invests more than $450,000 in equine welfare initiatives

The continued generosity of individual and corporate donors enabled the AAEP Foundation to distribute $459,198 among 27 equine organizations and special projects that share the common pursuit of improving the welfare of the horse. The 2016 disbursement brings the Foundation’s cumulative financial support of its mission to more than $3.7 million since its inception.

Among the initiatives receiving support were veterinary student scholarships and educational programs, important equine research, Equitarian workshops (support for working equids), unwanted horse programs, and professional and youth development.

Funded equine research includes new projects at the University of Florida and University of Pennsylvania investigating support limb laminitis (see article on page 3) as well as continued collaboration with Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation to support exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage research projects awarded by Grayson. Investigation of efficacious management strategies for EIPH that do not require race-day medication administration is a key component of the AAEP’s Prescription for Racing Reform, unveiled in 2015.

New initiatives to receive funding are veterinary student training in working equid medicine through the American Fondouk and Tufts University, the Louisiana State Animal Response Team’s Disaster Training Boot Camp, the 2016 Donkey Welfare Symposium at Cornell University and the U.S. Pony Club’s Equine Management Curriculum.

Visit www.aaepfoundation.org and click the “Our Work” heading to view a complete list of 2016 grant recipients.
Drs. Fassinger and Lee reward the horse, join mentors and colleagues with Legacy gift

Veterinary medicine and AAEP membership have provided a rewarding and fulfilling career for Dr. Jane Fassinger, owner of All Creatures Mobile Vet Service, and Dr. John Lee, Jr., founder of Unionville Equine Associates.

The couple, who got engaged at an AAEP meeting in Lexington, Ky., in 1998, relocated from Pennsylvania to Magdalena, N.M., in 2015 following Dr. Lee’s retirement from practice. Dr. Fassinger reopened her mixed animal practice in the rural village of 926 residents, and her husband now serves as her assistant when not busy with his new roles as firefighter and ambulance driver-in-training.

When making estate plans, the couple pledged a portion of their estate to the AAEP Foundation, becoming members of the Legacy Society. The couple recently discussed their Legacy gift, which they described as a way to give back to an animal and industry they love as well as follow the lead of mentors and colleagues who have been helpful in their careers such as Drs. Bill Moyer, Michelle LeBlanc, Ann Dwyer and others.

How did you become involved with the AAEP?

John: My first all-equine job was with two vets named Jerry Bilinski and Ted Sprinkle. They shipped me off to Boston for the 1975 AAEP meeting. I just got into it and loved it! When I moved to Pennsylvania and my practice grew, I encouraged everyone to join the AAEP. It’s just been a great group. Of all the groups I’ve belonged to, AAEP has been the most enthusiastic, positive, grow and lead the industry bunch.

Jane: I was a student chapter member and have been a member ever since. One of the biggest things, like John said, is the AAEP is kind of the cohesive link between members of a profession who are extremely independent. And it does keep us together.

How would you describe the AAEP Foundation to someone who isn’t familiar with it?

John: The Foundation is the only charitable organization that I’m aware of that is directed totally by trained professionals that also love what they do. Everyone’s background in this is the same, which in this case because we’re species-specific, I think is critical. This foundation is totally horse oriented and run by horse professionals; the distribution of funds is by horse professionals. With all the arguing about the Clinton Foundation and the Trump Foundation, there can be no arguing about the AAEP Foundation in the sense that 100% of every dollar donated goes to help the horse.

Jane: Most of us in this profession feel very blessed and we love what we do and it’s been good to us. The Foundation represents an awesome opportunity to give back.

Could you talk about the considerations or thought process that went into your estate gift to the Foundation and, perhaps, the importance of estate planning in general for equine practitioners?

Jane: We’ve probably all heard the saying “there’s nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse.” We believe this, we live it, and this is our way of putting our money where our mouth is to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that we have had to live this dream.

John: Equine veterinarians are used to working long hours every day, they’re used to being involved in the profession and planning to be involved at some level their whole lives. I think it’s important for veterinarians to take a break in their busy schedule at whatever level they may be and do estate planning.

We both had already included donations to our veterinary colleges in our wills so it was just natural to include AAEP. I think that’s critical because AAEP is your educational partner for the rest of your life. Vet school is just four years; AAEP is forever.

Interested in joining the Legacy Society?
Contact Jodie Bingham, Foundation development coordinator at (859) 233-0147 or jbingham@aaep.org.
Foundation-funded research seeking more pieces to laminitis puzzle

AAEP members have identified laminitis as the most important equine disease requiring research, and the Foundation recently provided financial support for two promising research projects investigating support limb laminitis, in which lameness in one limb results in laminitis in the opposite limb.

In one study, Dr. Hana Galantino-Homer at the University of Pennsylvania is investigating the alterations that occur in the protein structure that supports the bone to the hoof connection. The goal is to understand the process of cell pathology in the foot to better predict, diagnose and treat support limb laminitis.

The second study, led by Dr. Samantha Brooks at the University of Florida, seeks to understand the response of the cells in the support structures within the hoof. By utilizing RNA sequencing, genes that respond to the abnormal support in the foot will be identified and compared to normal feet. Understanding the gene upregulation will help identify the process within the hoof that leads to support failure.

“The generosity of many enabled us to fund these projects that will advance the knowledge and help unravel the mysteries surrounding this insidious disease,” said Dr. Jeff Berk, chairman of the AAEP Foundation Advisory Council. “We are particularly grateful to Starlight Racing partners, whose matching funds challenge in 2014 in memory of its Grade II winner Intense Holiday raised awareness and much-needed funds for the fight.”

Foundation launches ‘My Mentor’ giving program

Honor a mentor and support future equine veterinarians through the AAEP Foundation’s new philanthropic giving program “My Mentor.” All voluntary contributions in honor of a mentor are earmarked toward creation of a scholarship endowment for equine veterinary students.

The Foundation is seeking $5,000 donations to honor mentors. Donations may be made by an individual or collectively by a group of individuals. Mentors could include former teachers, colleagues, family members, friends or others who have made an impact on your life. Once the donation is fulfilled, your mentor’s name will live forever on the My Mentor Honor Wall on the Foundation’s website.

The long-term goal is to raise $1 million to endow these scholarships; the short-term goal is to kick-start the effort and celebrate this new and exciting program at the AAEP’s 62nd Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla., with mentors already nominated.

Each one of us has a story of how someone influenced our career in a positive way. Won’t you help us help horses by honoring your mentor today? Contributions can be made online at www.aaeppfoundation.org or by calling the Foundation at (859) 233-0147 or (800) 443-0177 (toll free in the U.S. and Canada).
**Bookend your convention with AAEP Foundation fundraisers**

Are you headed to Orlando, Fla., in early December for the AAEP’s 62nd Annual Convention and not signed up for either of the AAEP Foundation’s fundraisers? If so, it’s not too late to join the fun!

The AAEP Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament, hosted and sponsored by Patterson Veterinary, Equine Division, begins with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start on Saturday, Dec. 3. The convention’s social calendar concludes with the 20th AAEP Foundation Celebration, sponsored by Zoetis, on Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 6:00-11:00 p.m.

The scramble-style golf tournament will be held at the Shingle Creek Golf Club, rated a 4-Star “Best Places to Play” by Golf Digest. The entry fee of $150 per person by Nov. 18 includes greens fee, cart, range balls, transportation, lunch, post-event reception and a small donation in your name to the AAEP Foundation. Download an entry form at www.aaep.org/info/golf or call the Foundation at (859) 233-0147 to request.

The AAEP Foundation Celebration features entertainment, buffet dinner and open bar from 6:00-8:00 p.m., silent auction and dancing to upscale party band The Free, who effortlessly cover the best of rock ‘n’ roll, modern pop hits, country favorites and classic R&B. Tickets are $125 per person and may be purchased on-site at the convention, while available, until noon on Monday, Dec. 5.

*We hope to see you there!*

**Foundation support of new and future vets in the convention spotlight**

The AAEP Foundation has been a longstanding advocate for the support and training of the next generation of equine practitioners. That assistance will be quite visible at the upcoming AAEP Annual Convention when 100 students take advantage of hands-on training in core areas of equine healthcare during the Extended Student Program on Saturday, Dec. 3; and 14 promising students or recent graduates are awarded scholarships to help alleviate the significant cost of a veterinary education.

Financial support from the AAEP Foundation has enabled the expansion of student programming at the convention in recent years. At the upcoming convention, students who registered in advance will receive professional personal guidance during labs focused on imaging, podiatry, reproduction and business; and absorb insights into the personal finances of equine practice during a professional development session.

In addition, six students and eight recent graduates will be awarded scholarships through one of six different scholarship programs.

One fourth-year student will be awarded the Coyote Rock Ranch Veterinary Scholarship during the Opening Session on Dec. 4.

Five second- and third-year students pursuing careers in equine medicine will receive the Merck Animal Health/AAEP Foundation Scholarships during the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture on Dec. 5.

Five recent graduates will receive the annual Zoetis/AAEP Foundation Scholarships while a sixth will receive the Northwestern Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (NWPVMA) Equine Symposium/AAEP Foundation Scholarship. These will be presented during the Foundation Celebration on Dec. 6.

A pair of doctoral or residency students who have made significant progress in the field of equine health care research will be awarded the AAEP Foundation Past Presidents’ Research Fellow and EQUUS Foundation Research Fellow during the Milne Lecture.
Foundation assists disaster relief efforts in Louisiana

Thank you to the AAEP members and others who donated products and money to the AAEP Foundation specifically to assist with recent flood relief efforts in Louisiana. In mid-August, as much as 31 inches of rain fell across parts of the state. All donations were delivered to the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, which disbursed donations for immediate treatment of affected horses as well as long-term care and recovery. In the accompanying photos, a horse (below) shows signs of the “waterline”: cellulitis and dermatitis caused by standing for hours, if not days, in water; and a horse (left) is led through flood waters to higher ground. To donate to or learn more about the AAEP Foundation’s Disaster Relief initiatives, visit www.aaepfoundation.org.

Contribute to the AAEP Foundation

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Enclosed is a check payable to the AAEP Foundation, Inc. in the amount of:

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Contribution

Please designate my gift to:

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❑ Equine Community ❑ Disaster Relief
❑ Education (Scholarships/Student support) ❑ Equine Research
❑ My Mentor Mentor Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Legacy Society

❑ I have included the Foundation in my estate plans and wish to be recognized in the Legacy Society.

❑ Please send me information about including the Foundation in my estate plans.

Mail to: AAEP Foundation, 4033 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511
Fax: (859) 233-1968
Make a gift conveniently and securely online at: www.aaepfoundation.org

Thank you for your support!