Colorado State University wins Convention veterinary school alumni attendee challenge
The AAEP Student Chapter at CSU will receive a $500 prize thanks to the strong attendance by the school’s alumni at the 2014 Annual Convention. This fun challenge tracked the school with the largest number of registered Convention alumni attendees. Congratulations, Rams!

Touch Program: Put new Equine Dental Care Guidelines to use in your practice
Download the new guidelines and visit touch.aaep.org for many more dental care resources.

Member benefit spotlight: AAEP Rounds
Collaborate with your peers immediately on a wide variety of topics through AAEP Rounds or the General Discussion List. These e-mail listserv groups are designed for interactive discussions with your peers about topics within equine medicine. Click here to subscribe to the Rounds list of your choice.
Volunteer Opportunity: Lend your expertise to the Ask the Vet Forum in 2015

The Ask the Vet online forum is seeking AAEP members to lend their expertise to horse owners in 2015. The AAEP's Ask the Vet forum allows horse owners to submit questions on various topics in veterinary medicine and overall horse health. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to emergency care, preparing for emergency disasters and internal parasites. If you are interested in volunteering your expertise, please contact Dana Kirkland at dkirkland@aaep.org.

Equine Veterinary Journal: Featured papers of interest

Changes in the faecal microbiota of mares precede the development of post partum colic - JS Weese, SJ Holcombe, RM Emberston, KA Kurtz, HA Roessner, M Jalali and SE Wismer

This study found consistent changes in faecal microbiota which preceded episodes of colic; this may lead to identification of higher risk mares and manipulation of the microbiota in order to reduce the risk of colic.

Lungeing on hard and soft surfaces: Movement symmetry of trotting horses considered sound by their owners - T Pfau, C Jennings, H Mitchell, E Olsen, A Walker, A Egenvall, S Tröster, R Weller and M Rhodin

Assessment of horses on a straight line only should not be used as a sole measure of lameness. Assessment on both reins and on differing surfaces should be undertaken.

Important Deadlines:

- **January 30: Milne lecturer nominations due** - A detailed nomination letter is required and must entail qualifications and accomplishments of nominees. January 30, 2015 is the deadline to submit a letter for the 2016 Milne Lecture. Please submit nomination letters to Carey Ross at cross@aaep.org.

- **February 1: Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign spring application deadline** - Qualified applicants must be a 501(c)3 rescue/retirement facility and follow the AAEP Rescue Retirement Guidelines. Complimentary vaccines provided by AAEP Educational Partner, Merck Animal Health. For more information about the UHVRC program visit, www.UHVRC.org.
- **March 16: Paper submissions for the 2015 AAEP Annual Convention due** - To submit a paper or review the Instructions for Authors, go to the [AAEP website](http://www.aaep.org). All papers must be submitted online by March 16, 2015, 3 p.m. (ET) and should adhere to the Instructions for Authors. If you have any questions, contact Carey Ross at [cross@aaep.org](mailto:cross@aaep.org).

- **June 1: Nominations Annual AAEP Awards due.** The annual awards which honor individuals and groups serving their profession and the welfare of the horse in extraordinary ways. You can access the award nomination form along with full descriptions of each award [here](http://www.aaep.org), or by contacting Sue Stivers, executive assistant, at (859) 233-0147; [sstivers@aaep.org](mailto:sstivers@aaep.org).

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Save the date for these 2015 CE opportunities:

- **360° Diagnosing, Imaging and Treating from the Foot to the Fetlock**  
  June 28-July 1  
  Fort Collins, Colorado  
  *Sponsored by Dechra Veterinary Products, Sound and Universal Imaging.*

- **360° Ophthalmology**  
  July 8-11  
  Gainesville, Florida  
  *Sponsored by Akorn Animal Health.*

- **Focus on Ambulatory and Focus on Students**  
  July 26-28  
  Minneapolis, Minnesota
**Focus on Poor Performance**  
September 10-12  
Lexington, Kentucky  
*Sponsored by Nutrena and Luitpold.*

**61st Annual AAEP Convention**  
December 5-9  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Specific details for each of these opportunities are being finalized and will be added to the AAEP website when available. Check back often for updates!

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**EQUINE DISEASE NEWS**

**Two Arizona horses test positive for vesicular stomatitis**

Two horses in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, have tested positive for the vesicular stomatitis virus. One affected animal was moved to its owner’s nearby property prior to the investigation; as a result three properties and all the animals residing on them are under quarantine. [More](#).

*Courtesy of www.thehorse.com.*

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**REGULATORY NEWS**

**FDA approves equine lameness drug**

Tildren (tiludronate disodium) went on sale on U.S. soil this month after winning approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. More than 250,000 doses of the intravenous solution have been administered worldwide over the past 12 years. [Learn more](#).

*Courtesy of www.veterinarypracticenews.com.*
AQHA prevails in cloning lawsuit
The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued its opinion in AQHA’s appeal of the judgment entered by the District Court in the cloning lawsuit. The Fifth Circuit’s opinion, which reverses the District Court’s judgment and renders judgment for AQHA, holds that the Plaintiffs’ claims against AQHA fail both because the Plaintiffs’ evidence did not prove a conspiracy to restrain trade and because “AQHA is not a competitor in the allegedly relevant market for elite Quarter Horses.” Learn more.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Feed manufacturer settles with horse owners after fatal monensin poisoning
After the deaths of multiple horses at Masterpiece Equestrian Center in Davie, Florida, Lakeland Animal Nutrition has reached a settlement with horse owners and the owners of the ranch. Although the terms and conditions of the settlement are confidential, sources say compensation is “considerable.” Find out more.

Courtesy of veterinarynews.dvm360.com.

Data suggest veterinary market will improve in 2015
Recent indicators tracked by the AVMA’s Division of Veterinary Economics suggest that the challenges confronting veterinary practices the past few years are improving. More.

Courtesy of veterinarynews.dvm360.com.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

- Aaron Ranch is searching for a full-time equine reproductive veterinarian to join our rapidly expanding equine program. The practice is based in Commerce, Texas, and the position requires a motivated individual that has the confidence and ability to operate independently and would be a dedicated team member. Ideally the successful applicant would be competent in all aspects of equine reproduction. A generous salary package with experience will be offered to the successful applicant including housing. If you are passionate about providing a high standard of equine medicine and would like to work in a highly respected and evolving program,
please forward a cover letter, resumé and references to Aaron Ranch at info@aaronranch.com.

The American Veterinary Medical Association, a national not-for-profit association representing over 85,000 veterinarians nationwide, is seeking an Assistant Director for their Governmental Relations Division (GRD) located in Washington, D.C. The GRD advocates the Association’s policies and positions on federal legislative and regulatory issues that affect animal and human health and the veterinary profession. Reporting to the GRD Director, the Assistant Director will be responsible for advocating on behalf of the veterinary profession in Washington, D.C. As a registered federal lobbyist, the assistant director will spend approximately 60-80% of their time on Capitol Hill and in the Executive Branch advancing the policies of the AVMA. In addition, the Assistant Director will establish & maintain communication networks between AVMA members & Congressional staff, pertinent regulatory agencies, state veterinary medical associations/societies, allied veterinary groups, & advocacy groups to advance the AVMA’s Legislative Agenda. The Assistant Director will be primarily responsible for issues in the following areas: animal welfare; human-animal bond; ownership/guardianship; aquaculture; environment; use of pesticides; and zoos and wildlife. A bachelor’s degree in animal science or a related field is required. Advanced degrees (PhD related to animal welfare or a DVM/ VMD) preferred. Must also demonstrate knowledge of, or experience with, the federal legislative/regulatory process and have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Some travel. Deadline for application is February 15. Send resume with salary requirements to: apply@avma.org.