

Spotlight: AAEP Performance Horse Committee

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Composed of approximately 20 equine veterinarians from across the country, the AAEP Performance Horse Committee (PHC) represents a unique and highly motivated group of colleagues dedicated to the health and welfare of competing equine athletes. With expertise across almost all equine disciplines and types of practice, this committee is continuing to provide meaningful resources to AAEP members and modernize interactive forums.

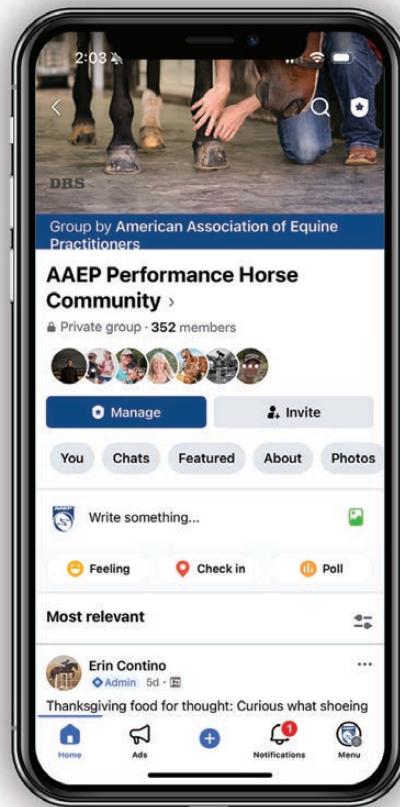
PHC mission

To proactively identify and address issues of importance to equine veterinarians and horse show entities; to provide leadership and expertise on all aspects of the performance horse that affect the health and welfare of the horse and the integrity of the competition; to communicate to AAEP members and other stakeholders AAEP positions and recommendations on those issues; and to educate AAEP members and stakeholders on best practices and ethical care of the performance horse.

Ongoing projects

The PHC set its sights on tackling five tasks through various working groups in 2024, each of which is highlighted below:

1. **Pre-purchase examination (PPE) form working group** objective: to create an expandable PPE form for AAEP-member utilization that is useful for the most basic to the most in-depth pre-purchase examination. Through user-friendly drop-down options, expandable/collapsible format and online accessibility, this form will help guide and serve as a resource for AAEP members looking to document their PPE findings more comprehensively and easily.
2. **Horse show medications working group** objective: to better understand AAEP members' needs regarding horse show medications. Through an AAEP member survey with tremendous responses and subsequent data analysis, this working group has identified the membership's specific needs and requests. Their next steps will be to expand and modernize AAEP's member resources regarding information and support for various horse show medication issues.
3. **Position statements working group** objective: to update various AAEP performance horse-related position statements and/or guidelines. With specific revisions pertinent to the pre-purchase examination and the role of the horse show veterinarian guidelines, this group has successfully blended historic and modern considerations for AAEP membership referral.
4. **Performance horse Facebook page working group** objective: to connect performance horse veterinarians for further professional collaboration, case consultation and meaningful discussion in a modernized format. The recently created AAEP Performance



Horse Community is a private Facebook group for current AAEP-member veterinarians with an interest in performance horse medicine. This forum aims to foster interactive discussions on a wide range of performance horse topics. We encourage you to join in the conversation, ask questions, explore cases, and share thoughts as well as seek advice and mentorship!

5. **Roundtable discussions working group** objective: to share experiences, advice and support with other performance horse veterinarians in a casual format. This working group was excited to share stories from the trenches in the "What They Never Told Me About Being a Performance Horse Veterinarian" Virtual Wednesday Round Table on Oct. 9, 2024. If you missed it, a recording of this session is available on demand through the "AAEP Webinars" section of learn.aaep.org.

Future directions

With exciting 2025 projects already underway, the AAEP's PHC is dedicated to the health and welfare of the performance horse. We look forward to continuing to identify issues of importance as well as creating and expanding valuable resources for the AAEP membership.

Dr. Johnson is immediate past chair of the Performance Horse Committee, and Dr. Guardia is chair of the Performance Horse Committee.