# The Foundation

## A message from Foundation Chairman, Dr. Rick Mitchell



The AAEP Foundation, which for 25 years served as the charitable arm of the American Association of Equine Practitioners to improve the welfare of horses, has been renamed The Foundation for the Horse.

This new name more clearly defines who we are and who we serve. As we embark

on our next quarter-century, our mission remains steadfast and as relevant today as at inception.

The Foundation's priorities are to support education through much-needed veterinary student scholarships and educational programs that improve the care of horses; equine research in pursuit of new treatments and cures that improve patient management and prognosis through exceptional science; and benevolence programs such as working equid welfare, disaster preparedness training and relief efforts for horses in need, and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of horses in transition.

The Foundation has distributed more than \$6 million in support of its mission. This includes a cumulative \$1.4 million in 2018-2019, which reflects our growing impact on horse welfare nationally and internationally. We invite all who love the horse to partner with us in this vital mission.

Finally, as COVID-19 proliferates around the globe as I write this letter, each of us is rightfully concerned for the health and welfare of family and friends; however, please remember your equine friends as well during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Mitchell, DVM, MRCVS, DACVSMR Chairman, The Foundation for the Horse Advisory Council



# Foundation grants improving horse health, family economies in developing world

Grants from The Foundation in 2019 supported 10 programs and projects aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the world's working equids. One of those projects was a two-week trip last fall to Guatemala where volunteers with the Texas Equitarian Project administered much-needed veterinary care to the region's working horses, donkeys, and mules as well as guidance and support to local and regional veterinarians.

The group, led by trip coordinator Dr. Rob Franklin, documented its activities. Following is an edited account of their first week.

After overnighting in Guatemala City, the team made the long trek north to the district of Baja Verapaz and the town of Salama, which served as the base for the next four nights. We arranged with our partner World Horse Welfare to have

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An "Equitarian" administers treatment to a working equid as its owner and his young son observe. (Michael Pintar Photography)



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their farriers and saddle makers meet us in Baja Verapaz for the week.

### Day 1

The team was situated in the cloud forest agricultural town of Chilasco, where the veterinary corps fell into their roles. The dental team provided routine dental care along with equilibrations and minor extractions; a surgeon provided extended wound care consultations, tumor removals, castrations, and lameness evaluations; an acupuncturist treated many horses for various maladies successfully; and our resident farrier, veterinarian, saddle maker, and natural horseman provided guidance to the local farriers that we worked with and trained the horses that were unruly. Other team members triaged; provided deworming, vaccination (encephalitis, rabies, and tetanus), and treatment of other infirmities; and evaluated horses with advanced medical conditions.

A total of 145 horses were seen, most in poor body condition and suffering from parasitism and malnutrition. Horse owners were advised on ways to improve body condition and management of their animals.



A typical day in the life of a working equid. (Michael Pintar Photography)

### Days 2 (Culbuco), 3 (San Miguel), and 4 (San Miguel)

The team visited several small villages whose residents rely on horses, donkeys, and mules to provide transit along the steep mountain roads and trails; move agriculture goods (coffee, corn, beans, and grass for livestock) from the fields to the market; and haul firewood necessary to fuel home stoves for cooking and warmth. We saw 110 patients in Culbuco and 175 in San Miguel. The conditions of the

> Horse owners were advised on ways to improve body condition and management of their animals.

horses were generally poor, though we found more mules in San Miguel, which is a good sign of preferred breeding by the locals.

In some areas of the country, locals use light breeds of horses for hauling heavy cargo, which results in ruptured suspensory ligaments and chronic lameness. The mules and donkeys are much better suited for the work.

## Day 5

The team was back in Guatemala City at the El Pulte Equestrian Complex, where we led the third annual equine continuing education course with the local Guatemalan Equine Veterinary Association. Each of the specialists in the group provided lectures to approximately 20 local equine veterinarians. This is a unique way to exchange cultural and professional information with the local veterinarians and is becoming a very professional meeting with extreme interest, participation, and gratitude from the local vets.

# Students acquire essential skills at Foundationsponsored workshops

More than 300 veterinary students in 2019 received fundamental training in Dentistry and Podiatry through oncampus Essential Skills Workshops jointly administered by The Foundation and the AAEP's student programs division.

These workshops provide important lessons and hands-on learning through lectures and wet labs led by expert instructors who are passionate about educating students pursuing careers in equine veterinary medicine. The knowledge and skills acquired help prepare participants for their eventual transition from student to equine practitioner.



A future horse doctor practices her dentistry skills with instruction from Dr. Jon Gieche, during a Foundation-sponsored Essential Skills Workshop at the University of Missouri. (Raechelle Dietsch)

# Foundation awards \$25,000 in support of Australia wildfire relief



A koala rescued from the wildfires receives treatment for its injuries.

The Foundation, which in mid-January issued a call for contributions through its Disaster Relief Fund to support veterinarians working with wildlife, horses and other livestock affected by the Australia wildfires, distributed \$25,000 in late February to the Australia Veterinary Association's Benevolent Fund.

The total, comprised of \$15,000 in contributions and a Foundation match on the first \$10,000 raised, is supporting the many veterinarians impacted by the fires or providing charitable care to affected animals.

"Thank you to The Foundation and the AAEP membership for the incredibly generous support," said Jeffrey Wilkinson, national manager of special interest groups for the Australian Veterinary Association. "This is \$38,000 Aussie Dollars and will make an enormous difference! Every penny will go to veterinarians and clinics who engaged in bushfire relief, which in turn strengthens fire-ravaged communities here in Australia."

The devastating wildfires consumed more than 38,000 square miles and killed 33 humans and millions of mammals, including a significant portion of the nation's koala population.

Although The Foundation is devoted to the welfare of horses, the sheer magnitude of the catastrophe and broad veterinary response that included many equine practitioners spurred The Foundation to reach out beyond its mission in this instance.

# Equine research, horses at risk to benefit from \$100,000 gifts



For the third consecutive year, The Foundation was the beneficiary of a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor. This kindhearted gift was designated for equine research.

In addition, The Foundation received a generous \$100,000 gift from Dr. Nancy L. Cook on behalf of the Clyde and Mary Lou Porter Foundation, in honor of her grandfather and mentor L.R. Hoff.

"It has been a great satisfaction to have dedicated my professional career to equine private practice and reproduction, and I look forward in the future to being supportive in numerous capacities in the area of equine welfare, specifically horses in transition and at-risk horses," said Dr. Cook. "Hopefully, with increased public awareness of the complexity and realities of this dilemma, especially in the Western U.S., more constructive programs can be implemented and supported to address the multi-faceted needs of these at-risk horses."

## Monthly giving option now available online

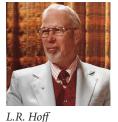
Have you been wanting to set up an automatic monthly gift to The Foundation?

Now you can automatically give care for horses monthly, quarterly, or annually.

Become a "Care Giver" by going to foundationforthehorse.org, clicking the Donate button, and following the instructions for individual gifts.

If you need help, call us at (859) 233-0147 or email info@foundationforthehorse.org.

# New "My Mentor" honorees bring total to 22



Each of these distinguished individuals has been elevated to the Honor Wall by family and colleagues making

charitable contributions totaling \$5,000 or more per mentor. Since the program's inception in 2016, more than \$240,000 in My Mentor gifts have been made to The Foundation. These gifts support three important endowments—Benevolence, Research, and Scholarships—as selected by the donor.

Learn more about the My Mentor Honor Program and the 22 members of the Honor Wall at foundationforthehorse.org/support/ mentor-honor-program.

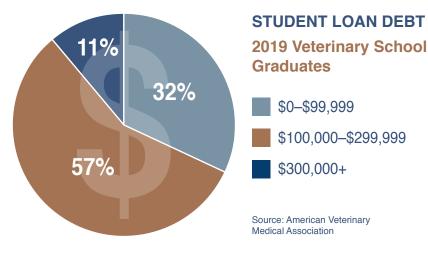
#### The following are enshrined on the My Mentor Honor Wall. Those in bold were enshrined in 2019 or 2020.

Dr. Richard L. Bagley Dr. Scott Bennett Dr. Robert W. Copelan Dr. Stephen P. Dey, II Dr. Albert A. Gabel Dr. Ronald L. Genovese Dr. Edward Hagyard Fallon Dr. John F. "Jack" Fessler Dr. Peter Haynes Dr. Charles "Chuck" D. Heinze **Dr. Doug Herthel** Lowell Ross Hoff Dr. Midge Leitch Dr. Ted Lock Hughie Dean "Mac" McInturff Dr. William A. Moyer Dr. Roger J. Panciera Dr. Charles W. Raker Dr. Howard C. Raven Dr. A. Martin "Marty" Simensen Dr. John Thomas "J.T." Vaughan Dr. Walter W. Zent

# Nearly \$370,000 in scholarships help new and future horse doctors

Four recent graduates and 13 students received early holiday gifts during the AAEP's 65th Annual Convention in December in the form of scholarship awards totaling \$366,000.

With veterinary school graduates of 2019 carrying average student loan debt of approximately \$150,000 according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, scholarship assistance is essential to retaining talented students aspiring toward careers in equine medicine.



### Three students shared in Coyote Rock Ranch scholarship proceeds of \$300,000:

Natalie Andrews North Carolina State University \$150,000

**Gabriel Gonzalez** North Carolina State University \$75,000

**Zoë Williams** Michigan State University \$75,000

# Five students received \$5,000 Merck Animal Health scholarships:

Kalie Beckers Louisiana State University

**Kimberly Hildreth** University of Pennsylvania

**Corey Payne** Texas A&M University

**Megan Sitzman** Oklahoma State University

Haydan Vosburgh Kansas State University



2019 Coyote Rock Ranch Scholarship recipients Gabriel Gonzalez and Natalie Andrews. (John Joyner/NC State Veterinary Medicine)

### Five students accepted \$5,000 Oakwood Foundation scholarships:

Alexis Daggett University of Wisconsin

**Chelsea Folmar** Texas A&M University

Kelsey Palsgaard University of California, Davis

**Lindsay Seewald** Cornell University

**Ellen Staples** University of Florida

# Four graduates of 2019 received \$4,000 Zoetis scholarships:

**Dr. Jenny Hamilton** Virginia-Maryland CVM

**Dr. Rachel Hilliard** Cornell University

**Dr. Katie Larson** Mississippi State University

**Dr. Sheila Spacek** Colorado State University

Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients!

## Halina Leonard Legacy Society celebrates 30 members

Named in 2019 for our founding donor, Halina Leonard Legacy Society members have arranged to support The Foundation through their will, life insurance policy, or other end-of-life provision. We sincerely thank these members for their generous and enduring prioritization of horse welfare.

Dr. Kathleen M. Anderson Carolyn Anderson-Meadows David T. & Jodie K. Bingham Dr. Jerry B. & Melinda Black Dr. Stuart E. Brown Dr. Carol K. Clark Dr. Reynolds & Evie Cowles Dr. Ann E. Dwyer Dr. Leslie A. Easterwood David & Wendi Foley Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr. Dr. Brendan W. Furlong Leslie R. & Dr. Kathleen 'Casey' Gonda Kevin & Elise Hinchman Keith Kleine Jean Kopperud Drs. John Lee, Jr. & M. Jane Fassinger Drs. Tom R. & Erin Lenz Dr. Yvonne Elizabeth Liddell Drs. Wayne Mcllwraith & Nancy L. Goodman Dr. John S. Mitchell Dr. Richard & Julie Mitchell Dr. William A. Moyer **Rosalynn Myers** Dr. Paul & Suzanne Ransdell Carey Ross Margo Saville Drs. Lawrence & Marlene Shamis Drs. Nathaniel A. White & Leslie Sinn Anonymous

# Because of you, we continue to impact the welfare of the horse

Our sincere gratitude goes to those who included The Foundation for the Horse in their 2019 and early 2020 charitable giving. Every effort has been made to accurately honor each donor. If you notice an error, please accept our apology and notify us so that we may correct our records.

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\$25,000 - \$99,999

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*Special thanks to the anonymous donor for your \$100,000 Research Endowment Gift.* 

### January 1, 2019 - February 29, 2020

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Educating caregivers for today and tomorrow. (Texas A&M CVM)

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Coyote Rock Ranch Project Manager Brooke Woodruff presents a check to The Foundation's Advisory Council Chairman Dr. Rick Mitchell to support scholarships in 2020.



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# Horses and COVID-19 (coronavirus)

## Help needed during and after disease outbreak for horses and caretakers

As the CDC, government agencies and medical physicians work to contain the spread of COVID-19, the equine community, and especially veterinary members of the AAEP, continue to care for horses while taking precautions to remain safe. A disease outbreak of this magnitude is a natural disaster, and The Foundation for the Horse steps up to assist. The Foundation is devoted to the health and welfare of horses and stands ready during this disaster.



*The coronavirus outbreak has caused postponement or cancellation of hundreds of equine sporting events around the world.* 

The Foundation's Equine Disaster Relief fund serves an important role as a source of emergency support for horses in times of need. The fund provides benevolent assistance that supports multiple horses and working equids on a national and international basis impacted by natural disasters.

Help us to support the current and anticipated needs of horses and working equids impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. You can donate to the Equine Disaster Relief Fund by going to foundationforthehorse.org/ impact/disaster-relief.