

NEWS

FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR THE HORSE

A message from Foundation Chairman, Dr. Rick Mitchell



In an otherwise challenging year for so many around the world, I am pleased to inform that The Foundation for the Horse has never been stronger.

This is the third consecutive year that The Foundation has awarded over \$700,000 in grants and support for equine welfare. Meanwhile, annual support from a broad base of equine veterinarians, horse owners, and industry partners is up nearly 30% from 2019.

In the face of hurricanes, floods, and wildfires in multiple states, The Foundation has responded to the emergency needs of impacted horses. For horse owners who cannot afford veterinary services, the new Vet Direct Safety Net program is ensuring critical care is available.

In addition, multiple scholarships are being awarded to deserving veterinary students who demonstrate great promise as future horse doctors, while five Foundation-funded research grants have potential to unlock new treatment options for problematic conditions.

At a time when the world confronts a virus affecting millions of humans, the work of The Foundation for the Horse races ahead. And, because of financial supporters and industry champions, 2021 promises to be even better!

Sincerely,

Richard D. Mitchell, DVM, MRCVS, DACVSMR
Chairman,
Foundation Advisory Council

Quick response, expertise helped horses caught in crosshairs of natural disasters in 2020

If a global pandemic wasn't enough, Mother Nature was quite hostile in 2020 with more than 6.2 million acres burned by wildfires in five western states and 30 named Atlantic storms, including 12 hurricanes.

However, as is the nature of a community of care, The Foundation was all hands on deck even before disasters struck thanks to hundreds of donors and an army of veterinarians, technicians, and caring stakeholders ready and willing to help. As servants of the horse, The Foundation and its leadership worked closely with veterinarians in impacted communities to address the unique response and needs of each.

In advance of and immediately after the storms, resources were deployed to equine veterinary organizations with which The Foundation has established relations, including the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Equine Committee, Texas A&M University Veterinary Emergency Team (VET), Northern California Association for Equine Practitioners (NCAEP), and University of California, Davis Veterinary

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Volunteers unload donated hay and other essentials at a wildfire animal shelter in Oregon.

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Emergency Response Team (VERT), as well as to many private practitioners and other organizations through trusted sources in disaster zones.

“Hurricanes Laura and Delta devastated hundreds of farms and equine facilities in Louisiana,” said Dr. Jay Addison of Independence, La. “Again, without even asking, The Foundation immediately stepped in to help monetarily and with coordination for accessing veterinary medical supplies, hay and feed. Several veterinary colleagues and organizations like the Texas Equine Veterinary Association also stepped in to assist their Louisiana neighbors because Louisiana took the brunt of the storms.”

Days after Hurricane Laura hit the Gulf Coast in August, wildfires ignited in California, then in Oregon and several other states.

As crews in Oregon evacuated more than 2,000 horses to safety, The Foundation was there from day one, coordinating its members and educational partners to mobilize much needed hay, feed, medications and supplies for the evacuation sites. It was there to update the rest of the concerned US and to rally support for those on the ground.

“The Foundation was not just there in the moment, but in the aftermath in the weeks that followed, providing care for those horses that lost their barns, or suffered injury or illness during the fires,” said Dr. Lisa Metcalf, chair of the Disaster Medicine Subcommittee and resident of Sherwood, Ore. “There are lessons learned from every disaster, and we look forward to being even better prepared for the next.

As the fires in Oregon were being contained, another batch of wildfires sparked in Northern California. At the request of various organizations,



Volunteer veterinarians, students, and first responders team up to assist a horse at a shelter in Butte Co., Calif.

the Texas A&M University VET was deployed to work in collaboration with the University of California, Davis VERT.

“Working with teams of veterinarians, first responders, and the National Guard at the shelters in California was amazing,” said Dr. Leslie Easterwood, a Texas A&M VET member. “It’s incredible to see the care and compassion provided to so many animals, including horses and burros, during times of disaster, but of course the realities of so many animals having no homes to return to and the stories of their caring owners is both horrifying and heartbreaking. Amidst the sadness, however, is it always a heartwarming occasion at the shelters when joyful owners are reunified with their animals, knowing that they have lost literally everything else.”

Sadly, these disasters will continue in the future and help is always needed. To learn more or to help, visit www.foundationforthehorse.org/impact/disaster-relief.

Grants and support exceed \$700,000 for third consecutive year

The Foundation has approved more than \$732,000 in grants and support for 32 programs and projects committed to improving the welfare of horses.

Funds have been allocated toward benevolence through support of disaster training and relief as well as working equid and at-risk horse welfare; exceptional equine research into a variety of diseases and ailments investigated by up-and-coming researchers; and educational training and financial support for new and future horse doctors. Following is a list of grants by project area.

Disaster relief & preparedness projects:

- COVID-19 horse care relief collaboration – EQUUS Foundation
- Hurricane disaster relief support – Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Equine Committee
- Hurricane disaster relief support – Texas A&M University Veterinary Emergency Team
- Wildfire disaster relief support – Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners
- Wildfire disaster relief support – Sound Equine Options of Oregon
- Wildfire disaster relief support – Various Hay, Feed & Veterinary Medical Suppliers
- Wildfire disaster relief support – University of California, Davis, Veterinary Emergency Response Team
- Wildfire disaster relief support for wildlife and livestock – Australia Veterinary Association's Benevolent Fund

Equine research projects:

- Effect of mare obesity on L-carnitine in the ovarian follicle and potential to correct by dietary supplementation
- Equine fetally-derived mesenchymal stem cells and their generated extracellular vesicles as a novel treatment for equine osteoarthritis
- Evaluation of plasma and peritoneal cell-free (cf) DNA as potential biomarkers in equine colic
- The temporal course of the cytokine, immune and transcriptomic response in osteoarthritis
- Validation of an innovative contrast subtraction technique to detect equine bone marrow lesions using CT

Scholarship awards:

- AAEP Past Presidents' Research Fellowship
- Coyote Rock Ranch Scholarships
- EQUUS Foundation Research Fellowship
- Merck Animal Health Scholarships
- Oakwood Foundation Scholarships
- Zoetis Scholarships

Working equid & at-risk horse welfare projects:

- Equine Welfare Data Collective
- Equitarian Initiative Distance Education Online Learning Platform
- Equitarian Young Leadership Development Scholarships for 2022
- Nine Equitarian Initiative Programs in Seven Countries in 2021
- Retired Racehorse Project Thoroughbred Makeover Symposium for 2021
- United Horse Coalition
- Vet Direct Safety Net Program



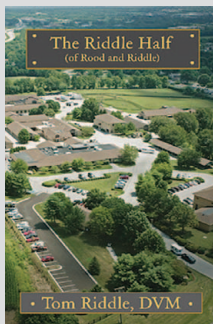
Kate Montgomery and other St. George's University veterinary students participate in a Foundation-sponsored podiatry lab and workshop in February 2020. Volunteer instructor Dr. Bibi Freer, right.

Educational programs:

- AAEP Student Programs
 - Essential Skills Workshops
 - Student Chapter Programs
- AVMA Congressional Fellowship Program
- Equine Disease Communication Center
- World Equine Veterinary Association Congress for 2021

Our heartfelt thanks to the many donors, reviewers, applicants, and company representatives who have helped The Foundation improve the health and welfare of so many horses and their caretakers.

The Foundation among beneficiaries of book by Dr. Tom Riddle



Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital co-founder Dr. Tom Riddle has released his first book, *The Riddle Half (of Rood and Riddle)*, with all proceeds from sales benefiting The Foundation for the Horse and the Theriogenology Foundation.

Including stories from his childhood and career, Dr. Riddle recounts with humility and pride his role in establishing and building the venerable practice with Dr. Bill Rood. Rood & Riddle began as an ambulatory practice in Lexington, Ky., in 1982 and established a full-service equine hospital in 1986. The practice now includes satellite hospitals in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and Wellington, Fla.

The book is available for purchase from Rood & Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy at (859) 246-0112 or RRVP.com.

Veterinarians are heroes to horse owners in need with Vet Direct Safety Net



Angel Matthews rescues horses and then raises money through social media for necessary veterinary care before adopting out healthy horses into forever homes. She had just rescued and taken ownership of an eight-year-old mare named Sugar.

“She was so lame and in so much pain that we almost had to lift her up into the trailer,” said Matthews. Upon arriving home and Sugar being unable to walk, Matthews quickly reached out to Dr. Charlene Noll, staff surgeon with Crossroads Veterinary Clinic in Anderson, Calif.

“She was messaging me asking whether there is anything she can do for the mare because it would probably take a few weeks to raise the needed funds,” said Dr. Noll. “I told her I thought we could use this new compassionate care program to at least triage the case, make sure the mare was OK and, if not, figure out where to go from there.”

The Foundation-funded program to which Dr. Noll refers is the Vet Direct Safety Net, which is enabling equine veterinarians across the U.S. to become “Dr. Clutch” for horse owners struggling during difficult times. Here’s how it works.

The Vet Direct Safety Net initiative offers up to \$600 of compassionate veterinary services per horse for qualifying owners who meet the financial need requirements. Eligible services include emergency stabilization procedures, euthanasia, and disposal.

“I took some foot radiographs and put some foam pads on Sugar’s feet,” Dr. Noll stated. “I think she just had really sore



Sugar has her feet radiographed.



Dr. Charlene Noll

feet—she looked like she had had some bad trims before. We just wanted to make sure she didn’t have laminitis.”

According to Matthews, Sugar’s feet are now trimmed regularly, and the mare has come a long way in her recovery. She shudders to think how the situation might have turned out without the immediate veterinary care enabled by the Vet Direct Safety Net program.

“Without the assistance, we probably would’ve had to euthanize her. Vet Direct literally saved her life,” said Matthews.

Since it was announced in April 2020, 45 veterinarians have registered for the program, 20 more are in the process of onboarding, and 20 horses have been helped at an average of \$500 per horse.

The program was initially funded by a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with additional funding provided by the National Cutting Horse Association Foundation and Brooke USA.

The data collected from horse owners in exchange for veterinary services will provide opportunities to better understand existing equine welfare issues and, ultimately, better serve America’s horses at risk or in transition.

If you are (or know of) a horse owner needing assistance through Vet Direct Safety Net, learn more at aaep.org/vet-direct-safety-net or by contacting Sue Stivers at [sstivers@aaep.org](mailto:ssstivers@aaep.org).

Foundation supporting pertinent studies by promising young researchers

The Foundation for the Horse has awarded \$95,630 for five exceptional equine research projects being investigated by graduate students, residents or postdoctoral fellows. This marks the second consecutive year in which The Foundation has provided nearly \$100,000 for impactful equine research by up-and-coming investigators.

“The Foundation’s investment in emerging equine scientists is imperative if we are to see continued improvements in patient management and outcome,” said Dr. Anthony Blikslager, chair of the Research Subcommittee. “These newly funded projects have the potential to improve mare fertility and offer new treatment recommendations for horses suffering from colic, arthritis, joint disease and bone bruising.”

The supported research projects with brief descriptions are:

Evaluation of plasma and peritoneal cell-free (cf) DNA as potential biomarkers in equine colic



Dr. Rosemary Bayless, North Carolina State University

Assessing the potential of cell-free DNA, shown to be elevated in critically ill humans and dogs as a tool to assist veterinarians with prognosis and treatment recommendations for colic patients, which could support clients’ informed decision-making and ultimately improve outcome.

Effect of mare obesity on L-carnitine in the ovarian follicle and potential to correct by dietary supplementation



Dr. Giovana di Donato Catandi, Colorado State University

Determining if an insufficiency of L-carnitine, which helps in the transport of fatty acids and cellular metabolism, occurs in the follicles of obese mares and if dietary supplementation will improve cellular metabolic activity and potentially improve fertility.

The temporal course of the cytokine, immune and transcriptomic response in osteoarthritis



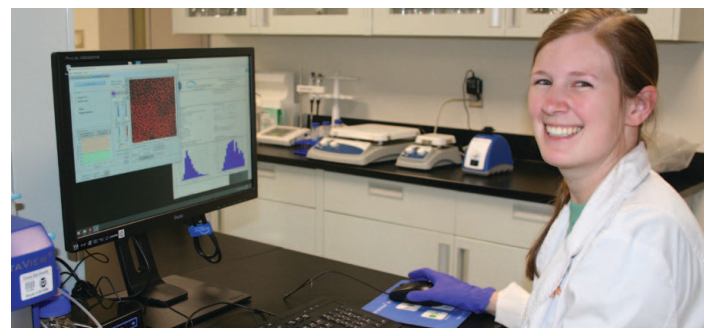
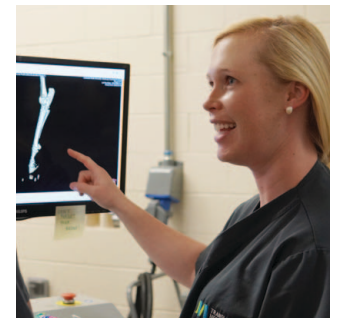
Dr. Lynn Pezzanite, Colorado State University

Understanding how osteoarthritis changes the immune system and the genetic code of the cells in the joint when osteoarthritis is induced and then progresses will help researchers develop appropriate targeted therapies depending on the stage of osteoarthritis (early, mid, or late).

Validation of an innovative contrast subtraction technique to detect equine bone marrow lesions using CT

Dr. Holly Stewart, Colorado State University

Validating the use of a subtraction technique with CT for detection of bone marrow lesions within the equine distal limb will improve understanding of the impact of bone marrow lesions and their relationship to degenerative joint disease, and will provide clinicians with alternative imaging methods for diagnosis and management of this condition.



Equine fetally-derived mesenchymal stem cells and their generated extracellular vesicles as a novel treatment for equine osteoarthritis

Dr. Riley Thompson, Colorado State University

Exploring whether use of extracellular vesicles produced by stem cells could be a potentially superior treatment for arthritis in equine athletes compared to the current treatment of injecting stem cells into the joint because there is less likelihood of an allergic reaction to the extracellular vesicles.

Equine research is one of three pillars of impact—along with education and benevolence—supported by The Foundation. The 2021 application window for this research grant program will open next spring. To learn more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ffthgsrrg>.

Halina Leonard Legacy Society celebrates 34 members

Members of the Halina Leonard Legacy Society 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 enduring commitment to 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
Dr. Elizabeth Fish
David & Wendi Foley
Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr.
Dr. Brendan W. Furlong
Leslie R. & Dr. Kathleen 'Casey' Gonda
Dr. R. Reid Hanson
Kevin & Elise Hinchman
Dr. Louise Kadie
Dr. Robin Kelly
Keith Kleine
Jean Kopperud
Drs. John Lee, Jr. & M. Jane Fassinger
Drs. Tom R. & Erin Lenz
Dr. Yvonne Elizabeth Liddell
Drs. Wayne McIlwraith & Nancy L. Goodman
Dr. John S. Mitchell
Dr. Richard & Julie Mitchell
Dr. William A. Moyer
Rosallynn Myers
Dr. Paul & Suzanne Ransdell
Carey Ross
Margo Saville
Drs. Lawrence & Marlene Shamis
Drs. Nathaniel A. White & Leslie Sinn
Anonymous

Why am I a Legacy Society member?

"I wanted to gift part of my estate to an organization where almost every penny goes to the area of my choice. I discovered that The Foundation for the Horse was exactly what I was looking for!"

—Jean Kopperud, clarinet virtuoso and horse owner



Barbara Bower

Five recently enshrined on My Mentor Honor Wall

Four pioneers in equine veterinary medicine and a dear friend to many have been added to the My Mentor Honor Wall in perpetuity. In all, 25 individuals are now enshrined on the wall in recognition of their profound impact through mentorship during their lives and esteemed careers.

Thanks to colleagues, friends, clients and others who nominated and made gifts to The Foundation in honor of the most recent My Mentor Honor Wall inductees:



Peter F. Brunelli
(deceased)

Dr. Richard A.
Mansmann

Dr. William A.
"Bill" Moyer

Dr. Melbourne B.
Teigland
(deceased)

Dr. John Thomas
"J.T." Vaughan

To learn more about the 2020 inductees, previous inductees, and the program, visit www.foundationforthehorse.org.

Help meet emergency needs as a monthly Care Giver

Care Givers is a society of monthly supporters who have established an auto-draft using a credit or debit card. Monthly supporters help sustain The Foundation's mission by providing a steady source of reliable income. This is especially important when unexpected needs arise.

To become a monthly Care Giver, go to foundationforthehorse.org/give-now, click the "Individual" button, and then set up a reoccurring gift at "Checkout."

Working with horse owners to produce sustainable change in Haiti

By Dr. Judy Batker

Teaching and providing veterinary care for working equids has many challenges—political unrest, weather disasters and strong cultural differences are just a few. Sometimes it seems for every step forward there are two steps back. Families and entire communities depend on these hard-working donkeys, horses and mules, so commitment and perseverance are necessary for success.

The Equitarian Initiative has developed a set of metrics and goals used to evaluate what is working. However, it is the personal stories, reflections and shared experiences that make this work the most fulfilling and remind us why we have chosen to share our privilege and volunteer.

In February 2019, a team from EI accompanied the vet agent group we had been training for several years in Haiti. It was market day so there were over 200 horses, donkeys and mules that had traveled varying distances to bring goods to market. Prior to our first visit in 2018, this Haitian community had no equine veterinary care. The vet agents were hoping and expecting that the equids should look better on our second visit. However, they were disappointed by many of the body conditions.

As they recorded how thin many of the animals were, they talked amongst themselves as to why they were not seeing improvements; a drought was at least part of the story. Then, one by one, they explained to the local owners that the team could continue to come to the community and deworm, vaccinate and treat the equids, but if the owners didn't improve their



Working equids, many unsaddled, wait in the sun at the market until it's time to go home.



Dr. Batker teaching vet agents in Haiti.

own care practices, those efforts would be useless. Carefully and thoughtfully, the vet agents explained nutrition, having to cut and carry when it was dry, the importance of water, and how enhancing animal health creates less suffering and increases working productivity and viability.

That same day, a small donkey arrived carrying a large pack saddle and heavy load. Removal of the saddle revealed hundreds of burdock-like plants deeply embedded all over the back of the donkey. The vet agent working with this owner softly grabbed her hand and pushed it onto the burdocks saying, "See how this hurts? You cause pain and suffering for the donkey to work with this on her back." He then insisted that she go into the market, buy a comb, and remove the burdocks. He took the donkey into the shade and helped her remove the debris, one by one. This demonstration and administration of empathy can be rare or overlooked when daily survival is tenuous.

The knowledge of the vet agents, their ability to teach their fellow Haitians, and their commitment to owner responsibility is an encouraging and immeasurable step for this program! The impact of these moments can be difficult to capture and articulate but, ultimately, they are the greatest indicator for change and hope.

At EI, we often ponder the true meaning of sustainability. When education and empowerment meet need, local leaders emerge and problems are mitigated through local solutions. It is stories like these that fuel our passion and dedication while reminding us why this work is so important on every level of aid, education and intervention.

Editor's Note: Dr. Batker is the board president of Equitarian Initiative. She coordinates and leads the EI program in Haiti, which is among the working equid welfare projects awarded grant funding from The Foundation for 2021.



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Expand your impact as a 'Proud Supporter' of The Foundation



A new Proud Supporter program enables annual donors to help spread the word about The Foundation and its mission by promoting the brand, connecting like-minded individuals, and assisting through service. Proud supporters are volunteers committed to the Foundation's mission and representing it in positive ways.

Donors interested in becoming Proud Supporters are encouraged to visit foundationforthehorse.org/support/proud-supporter and complete a brief agreement form asserting an understanding of the purposes and intentions of the program and use of the logo.

To learn more about becoming a Proud Supporter, contact us at info@foundationforthehorse.org or (859) 233-0147.

Benefits of becoming a Proud Supporter include:

- limited, non-exclusive rights to display the Proud Supporter logo
- complimentary branded items (e.g., pens, mugs, tumblers, decals), as available
- invitations to regional events & receptions
- marketing and branding collateral materials (e.g., PowerPoint decks, brochures, flyers)
- all other benefits of annual donorship

Expectations of Proud Supporters include:

- annual financial support
- brand promotion and official talking points
- connecting The Foundation to like-minded individuals
- annual service, as available