Dear Colleagues:

Spring has finally arrived in even the more northern latitudes and with it the annual ‘spring flush’ in the demand for services in Theriogenology. In spite of our depressed economy, judging from the frenzy of activity displayed by theriogenologists I have spoken with recently, demand for our services remains strong in most sectors.

The ACT executive board, in conjunction with the SFT executive board and the Therio Foundation board met in Seattle on January 29-30, 2010. We had a very full agenda. I will try to highlight some of the pertinent information and committee reports that will be of interest to you.

First of all, we were privileged to have Dr. Stephane Martinot, dean of the world’s first school of veterinary medicine in Lyon, France and representative of ECAR, participate in all of our meetings. Dr. Martinot’s input and perspective was much appreciated.

The board approved and the entire college congratulates Dr. Paul DuBois and Dr. Russell Crisman as our newest emeritus diplomats. Thank you for your years of service and many contributions to the ACT. We hope that you will both remain active in the ACT.

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The Scientific Abstract Committee, chaired by Dr. Marco Coutinho da Silva, welcomes new members Dr. Dietrich Volkman and Dr. Erica Gee. Dr. Volkman will replace Dr. Hannah Gallantino-Homer for a four year term and Dr. Gee will replace Dr. Anne Traas for a two year term. The number and quality of abstracts submitted and presented continues to grow and has become a premier educational event at the SFT Annual Meetings. Many thanks to Drs. Gallantino-Homer and Traas for their excellent service.

Dr. Phil Prater, ACT Secretary, gave the Examination Committee report. The executive board and certifying exam committee heartily thanked Dr. Beverly Purswell for her dedication and effort during her tenure as a member and chair of the Examination Committee. The board approved Dr. Kara Kolster as the newest exam committee member. Dr. Kolster’s expertise in small animal Theriogenology will nicely fill the void left by Dr. Purswell’s departure from the committee. A primary mission of the ACT is certifying new Diplomates and we are indebted to the entire exam committee for the quality of work they perform on our behalf.

Dr. Gary Nie, chairman of the newly formed Training/Credentialing committee sent a written report of recent activities. This committee was created by an amendment to the ACT by-laws last August. Dr. Nie announced there were 21 candidates recommended and approved to take the 2010 ACT Certifying Examination. Nineteen of those approved are standard route candidates and two applied through the mentorship route. The committee is also working toward development of Theriogenology residency training guidelines. They anticipate that the guidelines will be incorporated into the General Information Guide and will be posted on the ACT website for your perusal before the 2010 Summer Business Meeting. We would like to join in thanking Dr. Tibary, ACT past president, and members of the Education Committee for their efforts in promoting the mission of the ACT.

Dr. Travis Meredith provided a written report of the Mission Committee activities and Dr. Jane Barber, ACT Director at Large and Mission Committee member, gave an oral update. The ACT Mission committee was given a daunting charge and has developed recommendations for the ACT regarding college goals, research, positioning, and tactics. The committee focus has moved away from logo and branding related issues and is working on developing plans to promote Theriogenology in ACT diplomats’ own sphere of influence.
This past November, Dr. Steve Brinsko, ACT vice president, attended the ECAR board meeting in Barcelona and reported that ECAR certified 11 new diplomats. The ACT board resolved to send the ACT secretary or her designee to the ECAR exam committee meeting on an as-needed basis.

One of the most contentious issues facing our college is recertification. Dr. Dale Paccamonti, an ACT past-president and ACT delegate to the American Board of Veterinary Specialists, presented a report in which he strongly advised the ACT to be proactive on recertification. The Training/Credentialing Committee has been charged with developing a recertification plan to our specification before a less palatable plan is imposed upon us. Recertification will only apply to future diplomats and will not affect those currently certified. Dr. Paccamonti also discussed job analysis but the board elected not to take immediate action due to the projected high costs of current proposals and will be looking into less expensive alternative plans.

This past February, Dr. Augustine Peter, ACT President elect, represented the ACT at the three day North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium held in Las Vegas. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss and develop plans for future DVM curricula. Major discussion topics included future societal needs to be met by the veterinary profession as well as core skills and competencies required of future veterinarians in a general sense as well as in specific disciplines. As one of 90 participants, Dr. Peter made certain the voice of Theriogenology was heard.

I trust many of you have enjoyed reading our (SFT/ACT) official journal, Clinical Theriogenology. The journal is published quarterly and three issues have been published thus far. Please help ensure continued success of the journal by submitting materials for publication and encouraging your mentees to do the same. We are grateful to Dr. Bob Youngquist, editor, and the editorial board for making our journal a reality we can all be proud of.

At the combined SFT/ACT Board meeting, Dr. Phil Senger, retired reproductive physiologist from Washington State University, presented information on an on-line course in reproductive physiology developed through his company, Current Conceptions, Inc. He suggested an opportunity for the SFT/ACT to team in offering the course to serve continuing education needs nationally and internationally in reproductive science. He also sees a possibility for future project development which could involve input from SFT/ACT. A task force (Drs. Wilborn, Espy and Sanders, with assistance from the educator’s committee) was assigned to further develop ideas for possible collaboration in this effort.

Dr. Tom Riddle has enthusiastically continued to chair the Therio Foundation Board. The Foundation is flourishing beyond our highest expectations. He noted that, by action of the ACT/SFT Combined Boards, funds currently held under the name of SFT but in the control of the combined boards will be transferred to the Therio Foundation. This will include the Bartlett Fund, Zemjanis Fund, and the Reserve Fund. Also, student chapter grants will now fall under the direction of the Therio Foundation rather than the SFT. Please plan to participate in the highly acclaimed and immensely entertaining Therio Foundation Auction and Dinner Event at our Summer Meeting in Seattle- you will be glad you did!

Please review the slate of candidates for open positions (Director, Secretary, Vice president) on the ACT Board. Many thanks to the nominating committees and members at large who submitted nominees. It is absolutely essential that you mark your election ballot thoughtfully and secure competent leadership for our college.

As always, please feel welcome to contact me or any Board member to discuss any ACT issue. We value your input and sincerely desire to remain sensitive to the needs of each diplomat. We need your participation in ACT governance and encourage you to serve on committees and task forces as we enter exciting but challenging times.

Dr. Charles Franz and the team at Franz Management have done a wonderful job of serving our college and making preparations for a spectacular meeting this summer. We found Seattle to be a welcoming and vibrant city which provided breath taking scenery, fabulous local cuisine, and opportunity to watch the ‘world on parade’. Dr. Richard Hopper, SFT President elect and his team of session chairs have put together a sensational program of speakers and social events that you will not want to miss. Seattle will provide an enjoyable and memorable setting for the SFT summer meeting—make plans early to attend.

Finally, it is with heavy heart that we lament the loss of three of our members this year. Dr. Donald Walker, Dr Ed Mather and Dr. John Hurtgen passed away. We will miss them very deeply and their memories will be carried in our hearts always. We extend our sympathy to the families and colleagues of these great men.
Welcome to the Class of 2009 Diplomates!


**2009 Exam Statistics**  Would you like more information and statistics from the certifying exam data? Please visit the ACT website and follow the link “Becoming a Diplomate.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Sat the exam</th>
<th>Passed the exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Equine</td>
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<td>Bovine</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Animal</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**American College of Theriogenologists 4/02/10**

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<td>Venezuela</td>
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**Breakdown By Employment Type**

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The ACT Scientific Abstract Committee would like to thank all colleagues that have submitted an abstract for consideration for our 2010 Annual Conference in Seattle, WA. This year, a total of 62 scientific abstracts were submitted in the competitive (n=12) and non-competitive (n=50) categories. This is the highest number of submissions in the past 10 years! In addition, the number of submissions was balanced between species: 17 for equine, 17 for production animal, 15 for small animal and 13 for camelids. Abstracts were reviewed anonymously by each member of the committee, according to the criteria published in the SFT and ACT websites, and the highest scoring abstracts were selected for presentations. Moreover, seven abstracts of good scientific quality and/or clinical relevance were selected to be presented in poster format. These posters will be on display in the Exhibit Hall throughout the Conference.

As usual, the 2010 Conference will begin with presentations of the Happy Hour Abstracts on Tuesday evening. These are the top scoring abstracts in the non-competitive category and should be an exciting session! The Competitive Abstract Session will follow on Wednesday and will include the top eight abstracts submitted by graduate students and residents. These oral presentations will be evaluated by members of the Committee and the abstract with the highest combined score (written and oral) will be considered the winner. On Thursday, abstracts will be presented in concurrent species-specific sessions. Due to the large number of selected camelid abstracts, the committee is very happy to include a separate Camelid Abstract Session, in which excellent work on alpacas, llamas and camels will be presented! In addition, we will have a Production Animal session and a combined Equine/Small Animal session.

The Committee would like to welcome our new members: Dietrich Volkmann (4 year term, food animal emphasis) and Erica Gee (2 year term, ad hoc member)! The new members are replacing Hannah Galantino-Homer and Anne Traas, respectively. The Committee is grateful for all the hard-work of the outgoing members. We would like to extend a special thanks to Hannah Galantino-Homer serving as past-chair and for all her guidance and support to the committee during this past year.

Next year we will seek nominations for a regular member with an emphasis in Equine Theriogenology and for a new ad hoc member. These nominations are open to all ACT diplomates with an interest in basic or applied Theriogenology research and that are willing to further the dissemination of scientific information within the College and the Society.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Scientific Abstract Committee for all their dedication and effort in preparing a multi-species and high-quality scientific program for the 2010 Annual Conference. In addition to the two outgoing members, the committee is joined by Michelle Kutzler, Sara Lyle and Kristina Lu. We also would like to thank Dr. Charles Franz and his office staff for all the support provided to the Committee!

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

Cheers,

Marco Coutinho da Silva
Chair, ACT Scientific Abstract Committee

Dr. Patrick McCue - Relationship Between Donor Mare Age, Semen Type, and Early Embryonic Development
Dr. Dan Sharp - Effects of L-Arginine Administration on Ovarian Follicular Blood Flow
Dr. Romina de los Angeles Nunez Favre—Effect of Natural Photoperiod on Epididymal Spermatozoa Quality in Domestic Cat.
Dr. Jennifer Grossman - Effects of a Canine Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Vaccination on Male Llamas
Dr. Michele Kutzler - Whole Blood Selenium Concentrations in Pre-suckle Newborn Foals
Dr. Bruce Eilts - Ovarian Color-Doppler Ultrasonography to Predict Ovulation in the Bitch
Dr. Rebecca L Hegstad Davies - The Effect of Thyroid Releasing Hormone (TRH) on Serum Thyrotopin (TSH), Thyroxine (total and free T4) and Triiodothyronine (T3) Concentration in the Alpaca (Vicugna pacos).
Dr. Maria Carla Garcia Mitacek - Early Gestation Pregnancy Termination by Aglepristone in Queens

(Continued on page 10)
The newly elected vice-president will assume the offices of president-elect and president in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Please mark the enclosed ballot and return in the pre-addressed envelope. Your ballot should be mailed in order for it to reach the ACT office by June 30, 2010.

Vice-President

Dr. Juan C. Samper obtained his veterinary degree from Colombia in 1982 and after 3 years of large animal practice enrolled in the reproduction program at the University of Minnesota where he did a residency and earned his Masters and PhD degrees. Dr. Samper was also employed as a resident veterinarian at the Swedish National Stud in Flyinge during his residency training and became board certified with the American College of Theriogenologists in 1991. In 1990 Juan joined the faculty at the Ontario Veterinary College and after 3 years in academia he established his own equine reproduction practice in Vancouver, Canada which he has had for 16 years. In 1996 he was elected as a board member of the Society for Theriogenology and had the honor to serve as its president during 2000-2001.

In 2001 Dr. Samper accepted a position as associate professor in Equine Theriogenology at Kansas State University. Personal reasons brought Dr. Samper back to Vancouver where he still owns his private practice. Besides his private practice, Juan has consulted extensively in North and South America as well as in Europe. Dr. Samper has published several articles and book chapters in equine reproduction and is the editor of two editions of Equine Breeding Management and AI and co-editor of Current Therapy in Equine Reproduction. He is an active member of the AAEP and is a board member of the North East Association of Equine Practitioners. Currently while maintaining his practice in BC, Dr. Samper is a consultant for Sexing Technologies trying to introduce sex sorted semen commercially to the equine industry.

Dr. Claire Card is a full professor at the University of Saskatchewan where she is involved in teaching, research and clinical service delivery. Her background includes studies in International Agriculture and Development at the Swedish Agriculture University in Ultuna, Sweden. She earned her BS in Biology and Animal Science with honours in 1981 and her DVM degree from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1986. She earned a PhD in Physiology in 1990 from Cornell University in New York and was a post doctoral fellow in Animal Science. She was initially employed by the New York State College of Vet. Med. as a lecturer. She became a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists and joined the faculty of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1991. During her employment at the WCVM she has worked in Field Service and the in clinic Theriogenology service. She is presently a tenured full professor in the department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Her research focus involves studies on mares, stallions, and infectious diseases. Her studies have included different aspects of reproduction such as hormone therapy, semen analysis, use of anti-GnRH vaccines, advanced reproductive techniques such as hysteroscopic insemination and embryo transfer, advanced imaging techniques, innate immunity / endometritis and chronic disease research.

The American College of Theriogenologists is an important veterinary specialty because successful reproduction is critical to all living things. We are entering a time of rapid change in our profession due to the advances in information technology, climate pressures and globalization. My view is that we also have a responsibility as a veterinary profession and specialty body to assist with solving the major problems of society today, such as the challenge of environmental sustainability. The diplomates of the ACT have a role to play in many important areas such as: reproductive management, breeding / genetic improvement, species propagation / preservation, population control / management, amelioration of diseases and conditions affecting the reproductive system, in addition to being innovators in reproductive medicine, surgery, biotechnology and pharmacology. The ACT has a role in national and international affairs including veterinary education, policy development, and relationships with our partners and other specialty organizations. It is my view that the ACT should continue to further engage with the local, national and global community to improve the health and welfare of animals, people, and the environment.

Executive Board Member

Director-At-Large

Dr. Ramanathan (Ram) Kasimanickam of Pullman, Washington is a 1991 graduate of Madras Veterinary College. After graduation he entered food animal practice and in 1994, he and his wife Dr. Vanmathy Kasimanickam started a multispecies practice. In 1998, he began a residency in Theriogenology and entered Doctor in Veterinary Science program in Ontario Veterinary College, Canada, which he completed in 2002. Dr. Ram has been member of the Society for Theriogenology since 1999 and became a Diplomate in the American College of Theriogenologists in 2003. Dr. Ram was on the theriogenology faculty in Ontario veterinary College and VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine since 2002. He is currently a faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. His interest is teaching Theriogenology to DVM students and training residents and graduate students in their research endeavor. His research interest includes role of adiponectin in male steroidogenesis and population based research in reproduction. Dr Ram has published several scientific papers and presented his research in producer’s meeting to help them improve reproductive efficiency. Dr. Ram and his wife Vanmathy, who is currently a research faculty in School of Molecular Biosciences, WSU, have one daughter, Maadhanki (Maddie). In his spare time he enjoys playing tennis with Maddie and soccer with friends. Dr. Ram is thrilled by the opportunity of becoming an ACT board member and is committed to work hard to promote the mission of the college.

(Continue on page 6)
Secretary

R. Bruce Hollett graduated from The University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1972. He received a BS in Animal Science from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology from Purdue University. He became a Diplomate in 2002 through completion of a residency from Oklahoma State University. He was a solo and associate practitioner in Paris Kentucky and Charlottesville Virginia, respectively; equine extension veterinarian in Georgia; former Section Chief for the field services faculty; charter member, secretary/treasurer and president of the former Georgia Equine Practitioners Association; former director of the audiovisual library for AAEP; and currently a clinician in the Theriogenology section and Director of Continuing Education for the College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia.

The species of emphasis include canine, bovine and equine, and he teaches 4th year veterinary students in clinical block rotations and the 3rd year theriogenology course.

Any assignment would encompass an honest, consistent effort to assist and promote continuing education, encourage communication and common goals among College diplomates and the Society for Theriogenology, and maintain the established standards associated with specialization.
An Abundance of Educational Opportunities during the conference and numerous sources of relaxation and fun for you and your family!

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND, YOU’LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

Seattle is anything but ordinary. It's a place where bike messengers share elevators with world-renowned researchers. Where fishermen have lunch alongside top surgeons. It's a city where the extraordinary is commonplace and commonplace is anything but. And if you look closely, you just might discover that in Seattle there are amazing things happening all around you http://www.visitscience.org/visitors/.

Whether you prefer a fast paced, fun filled vacation or a laid back relaxing one, there is something for every one. Seattle is known for being the “metro natural” city, having all the benefits of a big city and all the pleasures of nature just a short cab ride away. The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt which is in walking distance of numerous shops, restaurants and entertainment. You also have the option of a short ride to see the beautiful mountains and other beautiful sights of nature. No matter what you are looking for you are bound to find it in Seattle.

Seattle, Washington is undeniably one of the top picks for travelers and business trips. This amazing city has received quite an impressive list of awards to prove it...

City of the Year – Fast Company magazine, May 2009
Food City of the Year – GQ magazine, January 2009
No. 3 Most Popular City - AAA, 2007
Second-Cleanest U.S. City – Forbes magazine, March 2008
Most Educated City-U.S. Census Bureau study, August 2006
No. 7 in Best Cities for Young Professionals-Forbes magazine, June 2007

Don't forget to mark your calendars for this amazing opportunity to see the unforgettable city of Seattle. You definitely do not want to miss out on all the fun and benefits that come along with the 2010 Theriogenology Conference & Symposia. Sign up today!!

Margaret Root Kustritz, DVM, PhD, DACT has been selected to receive the “Theriogenologist of the Year” award for 2010 according to an announcement by Dr. Augustine Peter, Awards Committee Chair of the American College of Theriogenologists. Dr. Root Kustritz is the 11th recipient since the award was established in 1999.

Dr. Root Kustritz is being awarded for her tireless dedication in supporting the American College of Theriogenologists as well as the Society for Theriogenology. Her accomplishments and contributions seem endless. In the College she has served as president (2006-2007), secretary, and as a member of the following committees: Examining, Residency Training, Animal Welfare and Public Relations. In the Society she has served as a director and a member of the Animal Welfare Committee and currently serves on the editorial board for Clinical Theriogenology. She has also been a major initiator and motivator of the development of the ACT-Board-Preparation List Serve. The impact she has had in preparing and increasing the numbers of successful candidates is truly extraordinary.

In addition to the many ways that Dr. Root Kustritz serves SFT and ACT she is also involved with several other groups and associations including the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, International Association of Medical Science Educators, Evidence-Based Medicine Association, International Association for Scholarship Teaching, Association for Shelter Veterinarians and American Veterinary Medical Association, where she serves as a member of the Council on Education.

Dr. Root Kustritz is currently Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine where she has also received several Excellence in Teaching Awards in both Veterinary Clinical Sciences (2004-2005, 2006-2007) and Small Animal Clinical Sciences (2000-2001). On top of all these contributions she has also edited several books and authored numerous chapters and articles.

Make plans to attend the Therio conference scheduled for August 31-September 5, 2010 in Seattle, WA at which time Dr. Root Kustritz will be honored at the Therio Award Banquet slated for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 2nd.

Congratulations Dr. Root Kustritz!
ACT EDUCATOR'S FORUM

The Theriogenology Foundation is sponsoring the 2010 ACT Educator’s Forum, which will be held Saturday, September 4th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. With this year’s theme being “Active and Integrative Learning Strategies,” it will include several great presentations from several of the most active teachers. Dr. JoAnn Wood will discuss team-based learning and will also include an interactive session to cover writing questions to guide team-based activities. Peggy Root Kustritz will present alternative assessment tools-enhanced multiple choice and script concordance. Team-based learning using case examples from the medical literature: experiences in teaching evidence-based medicine and epidemiology will be presented by Dr. Philip Kass. Dr. John Cavalieri will discuss curriculum integration within the context of veterinary education followed by Dr. Ram Kasimanickam’s presentation on resident training. This forum will be concluded with open discussion about problems encountered in teaching and ideas for next year’s educator’s forum. The Educator’s Forum will be $95.00 for conference attendees and $145.00 for non-conference attendees. Register today!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Annual Conference
Wednesday, September 1, 2010

Argosy Cruises-Seattle Harbor Tour

For 60 years, Argosy Cruises has been celebrating the breathtaking beauty of the Pacific Northwest as a Seattle attraction. Founded as the Spring Street Water Taxi and then through the years operating as Seattle Harbor Tours and now as Argosy Cruises, the family-owned and Seattle-operated company has become the Northwest’s premier cruise company operating from the historic downtown Seattle waterfront, South Lake Union and Kirkland City Dock (http://www.argosycruises.com/general/default.cfm).

You will want to make sure and mark your calendars to tour the Puget Sound with us on an Argosy Cruise for the Family Fun Night scheduled for Wednesday, September 1st sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. There will be a three piece jazz band, great food, and fun to go along with the amazing scenery. All this and the tickets are only $30. Advance tickets are required.

2010 SFT/ACT Conference

Single Port Laparoscopic Assisted OHE/OE Surgical Wet Lab

Sponsored by BioVision

Be one of the first! Following the trend seen in human medicine, the handwriting is already “on the wall.” Laparoscopic surgery in veterinary medicine is the wave of the future. Laparoscopic procedures are minimally invasive, take less time, causes less pain and are profitable. SFT is excited to offer its first small animal laparoscopic surgery wet lab. Dr. Ray Cox, our dynamic speaker from the 2009 meeting, will lead our team of instructors. Participants will enjoy a full, fun-filled day of lecture, live animal demonstration and hands-on surgery, including laparoscopic ovariohysterectomies and ovarioectomies.

This off-site wet lab will be held Saturday, September 4, 2010 beginning at 7:00 am when the bus departs and ending at 5:15 pm with a Q & A session on the bus ride back to the hotel. Biovision, our wet lab sponsor, will provide an optional, informal “skull session” dinner at 7:00 pm for those participants who are able to attend. The wet lab fee for conference registered attendees will be $600 and for non-conference attendees it will be $795. Compare this to fees in excess of $1000 for comparable programs. Sign up now and experience the ease and practicality of laparoscopic surgery. Enrollment is limited to the first 24 registrants.
The Exam Committee of the ACT met in St. Augustine Beach, Florida, from January 4-7, 2010. The following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Beverly Purswell, Past-Chair; Dr. Reed Holyoak, Chair; Dr. Mary Beth Stanton, In-coming Chair; Dr. Sherrie Clark; Dr. Jack Smith, Dr. Leo Brito and Dr. Philip Prater, Secretary of the ACT.

While a great amount of editing and preparation went into the various components of the exam before arriving, the committee began in earnest Monday afternoon. The work of question refinement and editing continued, almost non-stop, through the multiple choice and essay questions until Wednesday afternoon. The practical exam was completed by Wednesday night. The Examination Committee members worked diligently to ensure the questions for the examination were concise and unambiguous and that the various species-specific portions of the examinations (bovine, equine, small animal, and multiple species) were fairly and equitably constructed. There were no applicants for the swine exam this year. After all sections were edited and scored for difficulty, a pass point for the exam was assigned.

There continue to be many positives about the SMT Bank question management system. The software functions make question selection and exam development quicker and more efficient. There were, however, some significant problems that arose this year related to compatibilities between the SMT Write software and individual computer software of the exam chair and co-chair. The incompatibilities caused both the chair and co-chair to have many disruptions during exam development. In mid-autumn Dr. Reed Holyoak (chair) and Dr. Mary Beth Stanton (incoming-chair) sent their hard drives to SMT to have some of the incompatibilities worked out. She then took her computer down to the SMT Bank office and as she sat there participated in a web-based teleconference call with SMT Bank technician, Dana Anderson and Dr. Holyoak. The software adjustments and the conference call sufficiently facilitated preparation of this year’s main and practical exams. There are still several incompatibles, for which Dr. Stanton will most likely go directly to their Florida office to seek resolution. Based on the struggles outlined above, it is highly suggested that the ACT explore the possibility of purchasing its own computer hardware (laptop computers) and have the SMT company load the software onto those computers, then determine and fix any incompatibilities. One computer would service the SMT banks for multiple choice and essay questions, with the associated external hard drive for the main examination. The other would service the image bank and practical exam question bank, with its associated external hard drive for the practical examination. These computers would then be handed down from the two chairs to their incoming replacements. This would allow consistency between exam committees and the exam committee chairs from year to year. It was also suggested that there be a separate backup system for the main examination question bank hard drive. We currently have a back-up hard drive for the practical exam questions and images, for use by the incoming co-chair, who is in charge of developing the practical exam. The back-up hard drive is held by Franz Management. But, currently, there is no back-up hard drive for the main examination questions. The back-up hard drives would be carried to the SFT/ACT meeting each year, where a new system back-up would be saved from the primary hard drive to its back-up. This would serve as a protection against losing the entire data bank as was nearly the case in 2008, when the main examination hard drive crashed as Dr. Sylvia Bedford was serving as committee chair.

Because none of the current committee members received formal training when it was originally presented, it was generally felt a formal training session may be of great help in, offsetting “institutional memory” loss, test preparation, and more fully utilizing the system’s strengths. Additionally, a portion of the training time was to download and test the compatibilities on the committee member’s computers. However, the chair had problems in lining up reasonably priced training sessions. SMT has estimated the cost of a one day training session at approximately $6000. The committee felt this was much too expensive for one day. However, without training, the committee feels that we are not getting the full benefit of the software package, especially in the area of test question analysis and question relevance. There is no doubt in our minds that the software, regardless of the current problems, has greatly facilitated examination preparation, question retrieval and editing. We feel it was and is a worthy investment. We just need to adjust and adapt to more fully utilize its strengths.

New question development teams were formed this year by Dr. Sherrie Clark and she has enlisted eighteen volunteers for the teams. Exam committee members are writing some questions for the data base, as one of their functions for the committee. The committee is still in need for questions in the areas of bio-technology and companion animal, therefore, if there are those of you who have a battery of bio-tech and/or companion animal questions, please feel free to forward them to either Dr. Clark or the ACT office. The committee is also reviewing and employing questions from successful exam candidates from 2008 and 2009.

We have some very large shoes to fill on the exam committee this year, as Dr. Beverly Purswell will be rotating off. Beverly is incredibly knowledgeable and efficient and she has been extremely valuable to the committee with her abilities on small animal and equine question writing and editing. She will be greatly missed. The committee will submit names of eligible candidates to the Executive Board; one of which will be approved to fill Dr. Purswell’s vacancy.

The committee, again this year, would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Dr. Mary Beth Stanton for her excellent culinary skills and feeding us so well during our time in confinement at the testing abode. Besides being an accomplished equine theriogenologist and current incoming-chair of the exam committee, Dr. Stanton is the true “Iron Chef” of the ACT. Thanks, Mary Beth.

The 2010 ACT Certifying Examination will be held immediately prior to the SFT meeting, on August 30-31, 2010, in Seattle, Washington.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip E. Prater, DVM, Dipl. ACT
Secretary, ACT

Family Fun Night
2010 Therio Conference
Wednesday, September 1, 2010
Argosy Cruises - Seattle Harbor Tour
www.argosycruises.com
Dr. Sarah Eaton - Toll-Like Receptor 2 mRNA Expression in the Endometrium of Mares Resistant and Susceptible to Endometritis

Dr. Chelly Goncalves Pinto - The Use of Simplified Hormone Protocol for Nonovulating Embryo Recipient Mares

Dr. Leeah Chew - Use of a Commercial GnRH Vaccination for Mismating in Bitches

Dr. Jose A Len - Low Dose Prostaglandin F2α for Luteal Regression in the Bitch

Dr. Tonya Collop - Effect of Osmolality Dilution on Motility of Frozen Thawed Equine Spermatozoa

Dr. Natali Krekeler - Differences in Uterine canine β-defensin 1 Expression During Different Stages of the Estrous Cycle

Dr. Yessenia Picha - Effect of Corpus Luteum and Location on Pregnancy Rate Following Embryo Transfer in Alpacas (Vicugna pacos)

Dr. Christianne Magee - Evidence of a New Hierarchy in Kispetin Signaling in the Mare

Dr. Joerg Aurich - Effects of Al trenogest Treatment and Age of the Mare on Conceptus Growth and Secretion of Reproductive Hormones During Early Pregnancy

Dr. Dirk Vanderwall - Effect of Administration of Exogenous Oxytocin During Diestrus on Corpora Luteal Function and Endometrial Oxytocin Receptor Concentration in Cycling Mares

Dr. Anne Traas - Development and Validation of the Canine Neonatal Vitality Score

Dr. Bruce Elts - Comparing Deslorelin Implants or Oral Diethylstilbestrol to Induce Estrus in the Bitch

Dr. Liege Cristina Garcia de Silva - Canine Pulmonary Surfactant Synthesis During Late Fetal Development

Dr. Michele Kutzler - LH Testing is Accurate for Diagnosing the Presence or Absence of Testicular Tissue in Dogs

Production Animal Abstracts

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Dr. Maria Clara Sardoy - Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer-Derived Calves: Can We Predict Neonatal Viability?

Dr. Rodolfo Luzbel de la Sota - Treatment of Clinical Endometritis with Prostaglandins: A Clinical Trial in a Commercial Dairy Farm

Dr. Jacobo Rodriguez - Cryopreservation and Fertility of Bighorn (Ovis canadensis c.) Cauda Epididymis Semen

Dr. Jacobo Rodriguez - Quantitative Morphometric Analysis of the Utero-Placental Vascular Network and Angiogenic Effects of Tocopherols in Late Pregnant Ewes

Dr. Sandra Ayres - Early Apoptosis in Follicular Versus Ovulated Oocytes in Superovulated Goats

Dr. Ram Kasimanickam - Effect of Exencel RTU® and Polyflex® on Cure and Reproductive Performance of Dairy Cows Diagnosed With Acute Puerperal Metritis

Dr. Peter Chenoweth - Pregnancy Rates in Dairy Cattle Inseminated With Different Numbers of Progressively Motile Sperm

Dr. Lisa Pearson - Association of Adiponecin, Testosterone, Prolactin and Sperm DNA Fragmentation Index in Holstein Bulls

Camelids Abstracts

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Dr. Ahmed Tibary - Effect of Side of Embryo Transfer in Relationship to Location of the Corpus Luteum on Pregnancy Rate in Camels (Camelus dromedarius)

Dr. Ahmed Tibary - Effect of Volume and Timing of Induction of Ovulation on Conception Rate Following Deep Horn Insemination in Camels (Camelus dromedarius)

Dr. Yessenia Picha - Effect of the Testicular Size of the Sire Group on Pregnancy Rate in Alpacas

Dr. Lisa Pearson - Uterine Torsion in Late Gestation Alpacas and Llamas

Dr. Isaac Bott - Prevalence and Pathologic Features of Ret Testis Cysts in Alpacas (Vicugna pacos)

Dr. Julio Sumar - Ovation Rate in Alpacas Mated to Intact Fertile or Vasectomized Males

Student Case Presentations Continued

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Lindsey Alexander - Successful Pregnancy from Artificial Insemination After Removal of Uterine Leiomyoma

Holly Kana - Retrograde Ejaculation in a Stallion Associated With Tail-Head Trauma

Scientific Poster Abstracts - Exhibit Hall

(through out conference)

Abstract Posters:

Hernon Montilla - Reproductive ultrasonographic imaging in the male Harbor seal

Kristina Lu - Clinical use of recombinant FSH in non cycling mares

Ahmed Tibary - Effect of reciprocal lactation status on pregnancy rate following embryo transfer in alpacas (Vicugna Pacos)

Robert C. Causey - Genomic Variation of Uterine Isolates of Streptococcus equi subspecies zooepidemicus

Student Posters:

Scott Morley - Post-dystocia bladder paralysis

Kathleen Scarlett Black - Congenital Testicular Neoplasia

Sandra Lloyd - Aspermia & Enlarged Ampullae
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Committees

Exam - Drs. Reed Holyoak (chair), Phil Prater (secretary), Beverly Purswell (past-chair), Jack Smith, Mary Beth Stanton (vice-chair), Leonardo F.C. Brito, Sherrie Clark,

Scientific Information/Abstract -
Drs. Marco A. Coutinho da Silva (chair),
AnnaTraas, Kristina Lu (ad hoc), Sara Lyle (ad hoc), Michelle Kutzler, Hannah Galantinino-Homer

Nominating - Drs. Charles Estill (chair),
Steven Brinsko, Gary Greene, Aime Johnson

Awards Nominating (2010) - Drs.
Augustine Peter (chair), Lionel Dawson,
Bruce Ells, David Hanlon, Bruce Hollett,
Lloyd Kloppe, Harry Momont

Awards Nominating (2011) - Drs. Steven Brinsko (chair), Gary Althouse, John Dascanio, Rob Gilbert, Fiona Hollinshead, Sara Lyle, David Pugh

Mission - Drs. Travis Meredith (chair),
Mario Baracado, Jane Barber, Leonardo F.C. Brito, Bruce Christensen, Justin Hayna, Ram Kasimanickam, Amanda Ragan, Jeanette Raikos, Peggy Root Kustritz, Devon Strickland, Anne Traas

Training/Credentialing - Drs. Gary Nie
(2011 - Chair), Bruce Christensen (2013),

2nd Annual Theriogenology Foundation Silent/Live Auctions!

Plan to attend the Second Annual Theriogenology Foundation Live & Silent Auction during the annual conference, Thursday evening, September 2, 2010. This event benefits the Foundation for the support and advancement of Theriogenology. Auction donations from the membership are encouraged. Contact Dr. Tom Riddle – 859-233-0371 or triddle@roodandriddle.com. Advance tickets are required. Order yours today!
General Session:
- Reproductive Applications for Acupuncture - Dr. Tim Holt
- Emerging Diagnostic Approaches for Evaluation of Fetal and Pregnancy Well-Being in the Mare - Dr. Peter Ryan

Small Animal Tracks:
- Common Reproductive Pathologies and Challenges in Reptiles - Dr. Mark Burgess
- Safety of Drugs During Pregnancy and Lactation - Dr. Anne Traas
- Ovarian Disease in the Canine: Perspectives and Treatment Options - Drs. Cheryl Lopate & Rob Foster
- Diagnostic Approach to Urinary Incontinence in the Female - Dr. Heather Steyn
- Optimal Age for Gonadectomy in Dogs and Cats - Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
- Comparison of Shipping Containers and Extenders for Canine Semen - Dr. Joy Mordecai
- Pathogenesis of Prostatic Neoplasia in Castrated Dogs: Why the Increased Risk? - Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
- How I Define and Manage High Risk Pregnancies - Dr. Milan Hess
- Assessing Minimum Sperm Number in the Canine: How Many Does it Take? - Dr. Robyn Wilborn
- Helping Your Clients Troubleshoot: Feline Reproduction FAQ - Dr. Margaret Root Kustritz
- Suppression & Stimulation of Serum Prolactin in Hypothyroid Bitches - Dr. Kara Kolster
- Semen Collection, Evaluation and Cryopreservation in the Feline - Dr. Aime Johnson
- Canine Genome: Progress and Promise - Dr. Elaine Ostrander - NIH
- Advances in Nonsurgical Sterilization - Dr. Michelle Kutzler
- Canine Cancer Genetics: Hunting for Genes & Finding Mutations - Dr. Elaine Ostrander, NIH
- Pregnancy Termination in the Bitch - Dr. Mushtaq Memon
- Estrus Induction Protocols and Effects on Conception: An Update - Dr. Michelle Kutzler
- Roundtable Discussion - Topic TBA
- Clinical Trial Design and Execution in Small Animals - Dr. Anne Traas
- Roundtable Discussion - Vaginitis - Drs. Kara Kolster, Katherine Settle & Milan Hess
- The Challenge of Communicating Health Related Research to the Public - Dr. David Waters
- Practice Tips - Drs. Milan Hess, Steve Escobar, Jack Smith & Heather Steyn
- Toward an Ovarian Ecology: Recalibrating the Conversation on Elective Ovariohysterectomy in Pet Dogs - Dr. David Waters
- Roundtable Discussion: Anesthetic and Pain Management Considerations for Surgical Inseminations and C-Sections - Drs. Scott Pretzer, Heather Steyn, Anne Traas & Steve Escobar

Production Animal Track:
- Fetal & Maternal Gestational Disorders in the Cow - Dr. Maarten Drost
- Obstetrics and How to Train Farm Personnel - Dr. Maarten Drost
- How to Market Therio - Dr. John Myers
- How Government and Politics Affect Food Animal Practice - Dr. John Myers
- Small Ruminant BSE Male - Dr. Clifford Shipley
- Small Ruminant BSE Female - Dr. Clifford Shipley
- In Vitro Embryo Production and Fetal Development - Dr. Peter Farin
- Evaluation of Embryos - Dr. Peter Farin
- Review of Pregnancy Diagnosis Techniques in Cattle and Small Ruminants - Dr. Brian Whitlock
- Update on Heritable Congenital Defects in Cattle - Dr. Brian Whitlock
- Acupuncture - Dr. Tim Holt
- David Letterman’s Top Ten Reasons for Dairy Cow Infertility - Dr. Donald Sanders

Equine Track:
- Time Management in a Broodmare Band - Time and $$$ - Dr. Walter Zent
- Reconstructive Surgical Procedures to Enhance Mare Fertility - Dr. Dwayne Rodgerson
- Hormone Therapy, Superovulation, Embryo Transfer and Subfertility - Dr. Kory Niswender
- Breeding Shed Safety and How to Handle Problem Stallions - Dr. Lisa Metcalf
- Deep Horn Insemination and Fetal Sexing - How to Make it Easier - Dr. Andy Schmidt
- Sperm Transport, Elimination and Endometritis - Dr. Mats Troedsson
- Twin Reduction - Drs. Margo Macpherson & Karen Wolfsdorf
- Dystocia Management - History and Equipment - Dr. Corey Miller
- Induced Lactation - Dr. Joe Lyman
- Dystocia Damage - Repair of the Mare - Dr. Dwayne Rodgerson
- CEM Panel Discussion - Drs. Andy Schmidt, Mats Troedsson, and Walter Zent

Early Registration Discount Deadline - July 16, 2010
Register online - www.theriogenology.org