

Third World Veterinary Orthopaedic Congress

I would like to thank Professor Kenneth Johnson for the opportunity to write about the forthcoming Third World Veterinary Orthopaedic Congress (WVOC) in Bologna, Italy. It is particularly fitting that an editorial on this event is published in this journal for two reasons. Firstly, it was the journal's former Editor, Professor Geoff Sumner-Smith who initially mooted the idea of a world veterinary orthopaedic meeting and encouraged the respective boards of the Veterinary Orthopedic Society (VOS) and the European Society of Veterinary Orthopaedics & Traumatology (ESVOT) to progress the idea. Geoff was the catalyst and it was agreed to hold a meeting every four years, alternating between Europe and North America, the first being held in 2002. Secondly, this journal is of course the house journal for both societies.

The first WVOC was held in Munich, Germany in 2002 with the second being in the snow of Keystone Colorado, USA in 2006. This year we return to the sunshine and the Congress will run from September 15th-18th, 2010, when the Italian weather is hopefully at its best. Bologna was selected as a venue because it has a marvellous conference centre linked directly to the Guglielmo Marconi International Airport by a

convenient Aerobus, making transfer to the congress centre easy. The Bologna Central Train Station is only 10 minutes from the conference centre, and it can be easily accessed by car from the Florence, Milan, Ancona or Padua motorways. It was also selected because of the promised excellent co-operation with the University of Bologna's School of Veterinary Medicine, the oldest University in Europe – essential for the smooth running of the wetlabs. The congress centre will simultaneously host SCIVAC's (La Società Culturale Italiana Veterinari per Animali da Compagnia) annual congress, thereby reducing administrative costs as well as sharing the facilities.

Through the good offices of SCIVAC and Aldo Vezzoni's close association with the organisation, EMOVA (European Management Office for Veterinary Associations), a division of the Italian Society EV-Veterinary Events has been invited to act as the Congress Organising Office. For the last 25 years, EMOVA has specialised in organizing events, conferences, public relations and publications in the field of veterinary medicine and its staff are widely experienced. I am confident they will handle all items including registration, travel arrangements, and hotel accommodations in an efficient and friendly manner.



John Houlton



Piazza Maggiore,
Bologna, Italy

The WVOC Congress will commence with small and large animal wetlabs at the Veterinary School all day on Wednesday, September 15th, with concurrent seminars and dry labs at the congress centre, including an in-depth seminar on osteoarthritis. There are more dry labs at the centre on the Thursday morning together with seminars on small animal arthroscopy, new strategies in pain control and an International Elbow Working Group workshop. Pain control reminds me of Professor Geoff Sumner-Smith once again. One of the causes Geoff championed through past editorials in this journal was the need for adequate analgesia, particularly when it related to the control of postoperative pain. Continuing the welfare theme, there is a session in the main programme this year debating whether animal welfare legislation is hindering clinical research.

The congress will officially be opened on the Thursday afternoon, and between the official start and Saturday afternoon, there is in excess of 40 sessions planned. These comprise a mix of themed subjects ranging from bovine orthopaedics to tools for measuring clinical success. Essentially, there are two small animal streams, an equine stream and a bovine stream, each of which is supported by in-depth seminars, free communications and hot topics. Full details are available on www.wvoc2010.eu and I recommend you to view this exciting programme.

The old city of Bologna has some beautiful buildings which will host the social programme. Delegates will have the opportunity to savour the cuisine of the Emilia-Romagna region which is some of the best in Italy. Handmade egg pasta and stuffed pasta, especially *tortellini*, are specialties of Bologna, and there is, of course, the famous *spaghetti alla Bolognese*. There will be the opportunity on the Friday evening to explore the old city of Bologna with its beautiful old buildings, its covered walkways, and its wide variety of restaurants.

The social programme will commence with the Welcome Reception on Thursday the 16th in the fine old buildings of the University of Bologna's School of Veterinary Medicine located in the city centre, and conclude with the traditional Congress banquet on Saturday at the Palazzo de' Rossi. Additionally, after the State of the Art lecture challenging the relevance of 'evidence based medicine' on Friday afternoon, wine and cheese will be provided at the poster session, at which time poster holders will be available to answer questions.

Sadly we shall be saying goodbye to Professor Ulrike Matis as a member of the extended ESVOT Board at the meeting. The present good health of ESVOT is due to the efforts of successive Board members over the last years, but two members in particular deserve special mention. Aldo Vezzoni, currently Senior Vice President, has worked tirelessly for years as Secretary – but he re-

mains in harness both as the Local Organising Secretary for the WVOC meeting and in his continuing efforts in masterminding the Orthovet SuperSite (<http://www.orthovetsupersite.org/>). Professor Matis has been a gracious and generous host for many ESVOT congresses and workshops in Munich, and indeed the Ludwig Maximilians Universität is like a second home for many of us. However, Professor Matis is retiring and we have outgrown the facilities. Thus it is time for ESVOT to find a new venue and in some ways it is fortuitous that it is Europe's turn to host the WVOC. One of the attractions of alternating the venue of WVOC every four years between Europe and North America is the opportunity to experience different cultures, and moving to new cities is always a challenge. I am confident that delegates will not be disappointed by Bologna, and I look forward to seeing you there and sharing a great educational and cultural experience. I believe Professor Sumner-Smith's acorn of an idea is well on the way to becoming a proud oak tree under which the exchange of knowledge will flourish.



John Houlton
Chairman 3rd WVOC Congress 2010