



## **10<sup>th</sup> International Equitation Science Conference**

### **Equine Stress, Learning and Training**

**ISES – Denmark 2014 August 7-9**

<http://www.equitationsscience.com/press-releases>

#### **Embedding Equitation Science into teaching and practice of equestrian professionals**

The emerging field of Equitation Science aims to measure and interpret interactions of the horse-human partnership and gather scientific evidence that can be used to improve the management, performance and welfare of the ridden horse.

An identified barrier to the progress of Equitation Science is that scientists and equine practitioners tend to occupy different domains using different technical language, therefore potentially leading to confusion and lack of uptake and successful transfer of theory into practical contexts.

Education is fundamental to bridging the gap between Equitation Science and the larger equestrian community in order to develop an understanding and appreciation of scientific tools, terms and methodologies used in Equitation Science research. Degree level Equitation Science education is therefore essential for producing future professionals capable of encouraging sound ethical, evidence based practice within the equine sector.

Presenting at the ISES 2014 conference, Professor Natalie Waran, Gemma Pearson BVMS MRCVS and Bryony Waggett MSc. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland identified the veterinary profession as a provider of equine medical practitioners. Waran says that “in order to bridge the gap between theory and practical application it is essential that we find ways to encourage dissemination of good practice, through knowledge transfer within both the classroom and the clinic.”

The presenters went on to describe how the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Science (RDSVS) in Edinburgh has recently integrated Equitation Science into the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum resulting in improved learning opportunities of Equitation Science for veterinary students.

Pearson says “The principles of Equitation Science and Learning Theory and their application to safe practices in the clinical setting are being implemented by staff and students in both the classroom and teaching hospital at RDSVS. This integration and application of theory within veterinary training has far reaching implications for improved equine welfare and wide ranging benefits for veterinary practitioners working in the clinical practice areas. For example, armed with knowledge of the application of the training principles of Equitation Science, clinical veterinary practitioners that are handling and working with horses can reduce the risk of sustaining an injury to themselves whilst performing medical procedures on equine patients.”

Equitation Science needs to be accessible if the wider equestrian world (and their horses) is to benefit from its findings. The inclusion of Equitation Science into the education and training of veterinary practitioners will facilitate an understanding of equine behaviour, learning theory and the use of scientific tools, terms and methodologies used in Equitation Science research that support the practical application of Equitation Science.

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The International Society for Equitation Science conference offers an outstanding international platform for scientists and professional practitioners to present and discuss research related to the field of equitation science. For more information about the conference, venue and programme: [www.ISES2014.com](http://www.ISES2014.com)

The International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to facilitate research into the training of horses to enhance horse welfare and improve the horse-rider relationship.

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