

# Newsletter

## Volume 14

### spring 2008

# ECVS



## From the President's pen



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year we will celebrate 50 years of AO. Therefore, I take the opportunity in this column to briefly look back, as "in the history lies our future", they say.

When I am writing this preface, over 50 residents are studying for the upcoming exams. Furthermore, I would like to commemorate that on April 11th we have just celebrated our 17th birthday. It was only 8 years ago, that ECVS became the first College to acquire full recognition-status by EBVS.

This illustrates again that we are a young, fast growing veterinary professional organisation. To anticipate on this development we have changed our academic calendar from this year on and thus probably had our traditional Board of Regents meeting in Lenzburg for the last time in early January. Every year we then experience that behind a strong man is also a strong woman, but we hope to continue that tradition too in September again.

A key decision made at one of the first meetings was to require every member, both from practice as well as academia, to pass a certifying examination. This still supports our common feeling and means that everybody has equal rights, but at the same time also illustrates our common responsibility to support the College

in all its forms, with - being a specialist organisation - an emphasis on credentials and examinations.

The first exams were organised only 15 years ago for Charter Members only. This year our Exam Committee is faced with changing the format of the oral part of the exam into a new, printed format. Nevertheless, we will be able to profit from Vetsuisse university facilities in Zurich for the exams to be held prior to our congress meeting in Basel. This will considerably ease the support from the Office, which saves time, money and energy for all of us.

Young Diplomates are specially needed in the different 'developing' countries, as identified by the PR Committee. Although recognition in their home country is still a major concern, our high standard of working will increase the regional level of veterinary medicine as well as the number and credentials of residents in that

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country. International exchange programmes of residents with 'developed' countries are one way of supporting this.

Nonetheless, in countries where our residency programmes have been successful for many years, still quite a number of –originally considered as specialist- surgeries are done by non-specialists, e.g. laparoscopic ovariectomies in dogs as well as arthroscopic removal of OC fragments in horses. Stimulating public awareness of the existence of board certified surgeons as well as promoting the use of insurance for companion animal and equine special care thus

might become more and more part of our day-to-day business outside the surgical theatre. This July, we as supportive members of ECVS will enjoy the celebration of the 50th birthday of AO and around this our Congress Committee has composed a wonderful congress again, our 17th in line. Participate, enjoy and thus bring ECVS one-step closer towards its 25th birthday in 2016.

It's in your hands again: see you all in Basel !

Willem Back, President

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## From the Chair's corner



Dear Colleagues

We are approaching another year's end in the life of the College, a year that has seen considerable change and one where new challenges have been addressed. Wim and Joerg have addressed some of

the major issues your Board has debated but there remains much to be done. The reorganisation of the Office is clearly high on the list of priorities and it is not until you become closely involved with the day to day activities of the College do you really understand the amount of work and the complexity of the tasks undertaken by Monika and Miriam. At the Board meeting in Lenzburg, in January, the Fiscal Committee met (perhaps for the first time?) and a very fruitful discussion ensued. More information will be available at the Annual Business Meeting in Basel but I believe we are in touching distance of a sound way forward; sound both in terms of personnel and finances.

Most of the topics discussed during my time as a Regent have had a satisfactory outcome, but I have to report one that remains a source of considerable frustration and annoyance.

Riitta Tulamo has been Vice-President and Eric Strand has been the College representative at the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). Both have done an absolutely sterling job, but potentially need assistance. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this organisation, its objectives and duties, as taken from its policies and procedures manual, are to:

1. Recognise and coordinate veterinary speciality colleges in Europe (hereafter referred to as "Colleges")
2. Maintain a register of veterinary specialists in Europe.
3. Assure the quality of specialists by monitoring the Colleges and their standards.
4. Encourage and promote the enhanced utilisation

Few would disagree with these, I suspect, but their implementation, particularly number three, leaves much to be desired. ECVS has worked hard to establish a robust quality control system, starting with the management of training programmes, the scrutiny of residency reports, having an examination process that is fair and vigorous and finally assuring continued quality through the process of re-certification. Unfortunately, neither Riitta nor Eric is happy with how EBVS currently assess the

application of Colleges seeking full Diplomate status. They are especially concerned, as is the ECVS Board of Regents, that provisional Diplomate Colleges have the same voting rights as fully recognised Colleges. This situation essentially results in provisional Colleges voting in other provisional Colleges for full recognition status. This seems to be an obvious contradiction for an organization such as the EBVS, whose very existence is to ensure quality control. Additionally, there is concern that some of the newly formed Diplomate Colleges are more interested in granting defacto Diplomate titles than they are at creating quality residency programmes.

Your Board will discuss this again in Basel but I see no easy solutions. Maybe, if you have one you would contact Ritta, Eric or myself.

It has been traditional for past Chairs of the Board to extol the virtues of the forthcoming Congress. As usual, the programme committee have been innovative and this year we see a soft tissue and an orthopaedic "stream". We

meet July 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> with the main programme starting at 16.00. Pietro Regazzoni opens the proceedings with a State of the Art lecture "AO Trauma: where have we been – where do we want to go?" Those of you who have not heard Pietro lecture should come; those who have heard him will not want to miss the opportunity to hear him again. He is truly inspirational and it is fitting that we should commence our meeting acknowledging the tremendous contribution AO has made in its 50 years existence.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all those who have served on the various committees. To mention everyone by name would occupy an excessive amount of space but you all know who they are and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. I would also like to thank everyone for the trust and support I have received during my time in office. It was an honour to serve you and I look forward to seeing you in Basel.

John Houlton

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## Exam committee report



Dear Colleagues

The new case based examination replaces the oral part of the examination for the first time this year. Essentially it tests the same skills as the oral, looking at how the candidate manages a case with progression through the clinical

data and decision making at various stages. The only difference is that it is now a written test rather than an oral and we hope that this will assist those candidates whose mother tongue is not English.. However, it is very important that the candidates follow our instructions.

We will have a briefing meeting with the candidates the evening before the examination to run through how the exam will be run and to answer any queries they may have. It would be helpful if supervisors talk to their candidates prior to the exam; remind them to come to our briefing, please check that they have received the mailing with the exam timetable and the instructions for the case based exam and also run through a few basic exam techniques: Many candidates still write illegibly; we can't mark those answers that we cannot read!

Where a question asks for TWO answers, we can only mark the first two that are written down, even if the others are correct. Use the pencils provided to mark the MCQ answer sheet with so that if they change an answer it is easy to remove the original mark. They will not be permitted to remove any paper material from the examination room. This includes scrap paper. All candidates will receive a written copy of the instructions for the case based exam in advance, and we will run through it again the evening before the exam when there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

The timetable for next year will be much tighter than before as the examination will be moved to February 2009. Please make sure you remind your residents that are finishing this year and expecting to take the examination in 2009 that they should be working towards a revision deadline of February. We wish all the candidates a successful study time over the next month and hope that the examination experience is as smooth as possible

Davina Anderson & Roger Smith

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## Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee has not met since my last newsletter article so what I hope to achieve with this article is: to inform you of some minor restructuring within the Credentials Committee, and to remind everyone of the

change in deadlines and what this will mean for those of you currently undergoing residency training.

*Changing faces in the Credentials Committee:* After more years of service than he would probably like to remember, Hans Wilderjans is leaving the Credentials Committee. Hans' colleague, Dr Bernard Boussauw has generously agreed to replace him in the large animal group of the committee. The Credentials Committee and the College owe a huge debt of gratitude to Hans for his colossal contribution to the Credentials Committee over the years. His dedication to the integrity of the College is unrivalled. We are also grateful to Bernard for his offer of assistance to the College in the form of membership in the Credentials

Committee. I would like to remind every member of the College that membership of all College committees is voluntary and that without such volunteers, the College would not survive. I would urge any member of the College who would like to volunteer for a committee to make that fact known to the ECVS office, through Monika Gutscher. Finally, whilst there will continue to be an overall Chairman of the Credentials Committee, a Vice Chair will be appointed in the species discipline different from that of the chair. Practically, this means that I shall appoint a Vice Chair from the Large animal group, and that if you are doing a residency in large animal (general or equine) you will begin to see the Vice Chair's signature on all official correspondence from the Credentials Committee.

### *Reporting to the Credentials Committee:*

The reporting date for credentials and yearly report in 2008 is July 31st. This has two major practical implications for residents and the Credentials Committee. First, the Credentials Committee realize that many of you are completing programmes that were designed with the old schedule in mind and this means that many of you will not have completed your full

156 weeks of activity (in your credentials submission) or a full year of activity (in your yearly report). The Credentials Committee is aware of this and will accept credentials that are incomplete (in terms of weeks of activity) but progression to the examination (which will be held in Zurich February 4-6, 2009) will be contingent on filing a completed activity log, log summary and final case log with the ECVS office. Finally, with this new schedule, as mentioned in several formats previously, extending the deadline for final acceptance of publications will not be possible. To fulfil the publication requirement, manuscripts have to be submitted in their accepted form for publication (along with journal editors corroborating letter), or already be in print. A credentials submission without publications in this form will be considered incomplete. Please refer to the 2008 version of the training brochure, available on the website, for further information.

#### *Large animal programmes:*

The Board of Regents requested that the Credentials Committee devise a list of case type and minimum case number recommendations for a case log for a Large Animal – General programme that would be in addition to the current log for Large Animal – Equine programme. This is to allow those performing a large number of non equine surgical procedures to use those cases towards the total case requirements for a training programme. This has been done and the details of the new surgery log recommendations can now be found on the website in the 2008 version of the TB.

All that remains is for me to say thank you to all supervisors and candidates for continuing to pay attention to detail. I hope to see you in Basel.

Daniel Brockman

## Nominations for Office

ECVS has a strong field coming forward this year for election to the Board, as you will see from the short CVs published in this newsletter. All three are experienced Diplomates, and have contributed in different ways to the development of ECVS through participation at our meetings, and also „behind the scenes“. Bernard Bouvy has chaired the Exam Committee, and acted as an Examiner for our Diploma over a number of years. Lennart Sjöström has put a similar amount of effort into our Credentials Committee, which he chaired for four years, and Tim Phillips has served on our Appeals Committee. Tim is unusual in being qualified as both a veterinary surgeon and a lawyer, and, therefore, will bring that added skill set to the range of experience and expertise of your whole Board.

Stephen May

#### **Nominee for President elect**



Bernard Bouvy, France

DrMedVet(ULG-1987),  
MS,  
Small Animal, Private  
Practitioner  
Dip ECVS (Charter 1993),  
Dip ACVS (by exam  
1994).

ECVS Exam Committee

member and chair 1995-1999, 2008 ; Examiner since 2000.

Veterinary Surgery Editorial Review Board member 2006-2008.

I am a Belgian citizen (European citizen, actually), 45years old, married to Isabelle since 20 years and father of 3 teenagers (12to18). I live

close to Versailles-France since 1992 and have lived in Wisconsin-USA during 4 years. Besides family, my greatest treat in life is travelling.

I am one of six partners at the Centre Hospitalier Vétérinaire Frégis in Paris(Arcueil)-France since 1992.

I am the Humane Resources Director at CHV Frégis (45 individuals including 23 Vets).

My main clinical interest lies with « cold » orthopaedics (articular).

My main satisfactions as a specialist are to contribute to the education of veterinarians and to serve the public.

With my former and current surgeon partners (G. Dupré Dip ECVS - C. Poncet Dip ECVS), I have been continuously training ECVS residents since 1998 within accredited standard programs (9th residency starts in 2009). Up to 2007, three trainees became Dip ECVS (D. Jacques, H. Brissot, C. Poncet). One is taking

the exam this year in Zurich. We also run a rotating internship program.

I graduated from ULG-Cureghem-Belgium in 1987 where I also completed my internship and one year as clinical instructor under the supervision of Pr. Marc Balligand Dip ECVS, Past-President ECVS.

I completed a 3 years Residency/Master of Science program at U. Wisconsin-Madison-USA in 1991 under the supervision of Pr P. Manley Dip ACVS. In Wisconsin, I also completed a research fellowship in the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory in 1992.

I do publish regularly in refereed English or French speaking journals. I have lectured in a variety of veterinary meetings from local to international level, including ECVS and ACVS. I take part in internet-based continuing education for Vet's in Belgium and France.

### **Nominee for Small Animal Regent**



Lennart Sjöström,  
Sweden

Graduated from Royal College of Veterinary Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972

Started to work in small animal hospital in 1973. Specialized early in small animal surgery. From

1986 Head Surgeon at Strömsholm Referral Animal Hospital

Accepted to sit the ECVS examination, and passed the examination, in 1996.

Numerous assignments in the Swedish veterinary community, mainly in the Swedish Animal Hospital Association and the Veterinary Medical Association

- o Member of ECVS Credentials Committee in 2000
- o Chair of Credentials Committee from 2002-2006

- o Lecturer and examiner in orthopaedics for veterinary students at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.
- o Several scientific publications and textbook chapters.
- o Frequently invited as a speaker, mainly on orthopaedic subjects
- o Presently Head Surgeon at Strömsholm Referral Animal Hospital, a 32 veterinarian specialty referral hospital for small animals in central Sweden.
- o Main fields of interest orthopaedic and neurosurgery.

## Nominee for Large Animal Regent



Tim J. Phillips UK

I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in 1983. In 1987 I joined John Walmsley's practice, now known as The Liphook Equine Hospital. Between 1991 and 1995 I undertook a period of further training and work as an equine surgeon at the Centre for Equine Studies of the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket. I became recognized as a specialist in equine surgery by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1995, the same year that I became a Diplomate of the ECVS. Somewhere along the line I seem to have gained a law degree too. I am currently a partner and senior surgeon back at the Liphook Equine Hospital, although I am generally to be found fishing, sailing or on the golf course.

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## Report from the PR Committee



Dear Colleagues

The Public Relation Committee (PRC) of ECVS has several objectives and missions that are explicitly defined in the constitution of ECVS:

1. To update and publish the directory of diplomates, to assess their number and to report to the College the trends in its population
2. To help edit the spring and autumn newsletters
3. To develop and update a list of the periodicals which have expressed interest in disseminating the activities and programs of the college
4. To help organize the annual congress
5. To collect information regarding the perception and the reputation of the College in different countries
6. To reply to requests for information about the activities of the college.

For a few years now, the PRC has tried to carry out those tasks as efficiently as possible.

Thanks to Monika Gutscher, a list of diplomates, with their activity and contact details, is now available on the website of the ECVS. An overview of the composition of the college is given in Table 1 and Figure 1. Residents and trainee are also reported in the table.

The high number of residents in some countries illustrates the dynamism of our college. Many ECVS diplomates work outside Europe and this may be linked to the excellent reputation of our members. However it is still necessary to stimulate ECVS training in several countries. In Eastern and Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, . . .), the number of diplomates is limited. The higher number of diplomates we have in a country, the higher chance we have to disseminate a positive image of the college. The presence of diplomates in academic institutions might play an interesting role in communicating an image of quality and of high standards in some countries (UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Ireland, and Canada).

Besides the good health of our college, we can be pleased that the concept of specialisation has considerably progressed in Europe. Many countries have set up diplomas of specialists which tend to be considered as standards.

Board certification is now usually a requirement to be appointed in an academic institution. Training residents is one of the tasks of the academic clinician (Table 1).

In order to evaluate how the college and its reputation were perceived in different countries, a survey was undertaken among the PRC districts representatives, and among the diplomates outside Europe with the precious help of G. Chanoix. The results indicated that in The Netherlands the largest equine practices want to have one or more ECVS diplomates. In UK,

the ECVS diploma is very well considered by the UK profession and is fully recognised by the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeon). In Northern countries, titles are recognized and highly respected. In Italy, the perception of diplomate status by the veterinary community has changed positively in recent years, mostly because of the involvement of Diplomates in CE (Continuing Education) activities and publications. In Spain, basically the equine veterinary community recognizes only American or European Colleges, but this is not officially recognised in a law or code of practice. In Eastern countries, national veterinary authorities recommend to have a status of diplomate for second opinion practice. In Germany and Austria, though the perception of the diplomate status

District	Country	N°. of dipl SA	N°. of dipl LA	N°. of Res SA	N°. of Res LA	N°. of Alt SA	N°. of Alt LA	Recognition of the EBVS and their specialty colleges
Total		190	115	105	57	18	12	
Benelux	Belgium	20	18	6	4	2		Yes
	Netherlands			5	3	1	1	Yes
Eastern countries	CZ	4	1	4	1	2		No
	Israël			4				
	Hungary Slovak Rep					1 1	1	
France	France	20	4	18	5	4		In progress
Germany	Austria	28	11	1		1	1	No
	Germany			12	3			
Italy	Italy	6	2	4	2	4	1	No
Scandinavia	Denmark	3	5	1	5	0	1	Yes
	Finland			1				Yes
	Norway				1			Yes
	Sweden			3	2			Yes
Iberia	Spain		4	1	2	0	2	No
Switzerland	Switzerland	26	9	12	7	0		Yes
Countries (English Speaking)	Australia	50	40	2	1			Yes
	Hong Kong			3				
	Ireland			1	2			Yes
	New Zealand				1			
	Scotland			9	6		3	Yes
UK			20	17	2	2	Yes	
USA	USA	33	21	2		1	0	
	Canada				2			

# EUROPE



USA/Canada/Australia/  
Hong kong/ West India



has progressed positively, it is still considered reluctantly by some practitioners. In France, there is a tendency to think that being an ECVS Diplomate is the gold standard in surgery. All major practices in France try to hire an ECVS Diplomate as a surgeon. In USA, ACVS is the gold standard. Several answers stated that ECVS was known but not perceived as equivalent to ACVS. In South Africa, ECVS is not well known and is perceived as the guardian of European Specialist Standards. In Australia, ECVS is recognized but one individual must be granted by overseeing body to become specialist. This is true for all specialist veterinary qualifications in Australia, not just ECVS. In Canada, ACVS is also the gold standard but there's a recognition

of ECVS being the highest level of training that a surgeon can obtain in Europe.

A list of periodicals has also been established and we are currently evaluating their impact and strength in each country in terms of advertising and dissemination. The PRC tries also to help organisers of the annual congress. There is much to do and all members of the committee are much involved. Eventually, another mission of the PRC is to listen to diplomates and residents who have issues to raise or ideas to suggest, and transmit them to the Board.

Roland Perrin

## Basel, Switzerland 2008



Dear friends and colleagues

This year seems to be the first time in a number of ECVS Meetings that we detect a tendency of a declining attendance of our Annual Meeting. We are fully aware that we have still a month to catch up, and we hope that this will indeed be the case. Nevertheless we sat down and analyzed this apparent trend. There are two options to explain it:

1. The change from mail distribution of the programme to the internet distribution.
2. The quality of the programme does not hold up to the standards of the last few years.

We thoroughly hope – to one extent - that the first option is responsible. On the other hand it would at the same time be disturbing that

the change to the internet results in such difference.

For the ECVS Office it is not only a question of the workload and finances involved, but also a way to save resources. We would also like to make a step towards decreasing the paper overflow and try to use the medium internet for promoting our Annual Meeting in the future and communicating news from the ECVS Office to our members, residents and delegates.

Therefore we all have to get used to and familiar with this type of communication and we hope that in the future we can increase attendance at our meeting. Therefore we ask you, the members, the delegates and residents to let us

know via internet how you judge this apparent trend and at the same time we hope that you all help in animating veterinarians of all specialties to attend our meeting – it's not too late.

Also this year we are offering some interesting pre congress labs: an Equine wet lab on skin grafting at the Vet School in Zurich on Wednesday afternoon, followed by dry lab on wound healing on Thursday morning – but in Basel! For the small animal group we offer two soft tissue seminars one on critical care and the other on cardio pulmonary resuscitation and two workshops on orthopaedics – Kyon sponsors a ALPS and Orthomed a SOP lab – an opportunity to get familiarized with two trendy

implants and orthopaedic techniques.

For your spouses we have a short city walking tour on Friday and on Saturday a day excursion to the Alsace on the programme – please register via email to the ECVS Office! Besides this, Basel and Switzerland, France and southern Germany have to offer a lot – there is something for everybody. Please contact us for further information.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Basel and to Switzerland. Make your registration and your booking now!

Jörg Auer

## Nantes, France 2009

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends

I is with great pleasure that I am sharing with you the announcement of our 18th Annual Scientific meeting which will take place in Nantes, France. That is, from July 9 to 11, 2009 at the Cit\_ Internationale des Congrès in the city centre of Nantes and for the wet labs at the Veterinary School of Nantes. After Versailles and Lyon it will be the third time that France welcomes the international ECVS community and all European specialists in veterinary surgery. Without doubt, this event is a marvellous opportunity for the members of the surgery department of our school as well as for all surgeons in France. It is by coincidence that in 2009 the Veterinary School of Nantes will celebrate its 30th anniversary; thus, an additional reason for celebrating with all of you a



congress of excellence and an anniversary in a beautiful city and a very enjoyable region. The local committee of organisation will consist of Oliver Geffroy, Oliver Gauthier and myself; we are kindly inviting you as of now to make proposals for scientific content and/or suggestions for the organisational part of the meeting. Given the success of the French-speaking pre-congress day, organised in Lyon, we are planning to offer again a pre-congress day for our French colleagues. Therefore, after our upcoming „rendez-vous“ in Basel we, «the French connection», are looking very much forward to welcoming you in 2009. «Aurevoir in Nantes»,

Gert Niebauer, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Nantes.

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# Important dates and deadlines for 2008 and 2009

- **July 1, 2008**
  - Surgeon in training grant submission
- **July 5-8, 2008**
  - Board examination in Zurich
- **July 10-12, 2008**
  - Annual Scientific Meeting Basel
  - Meetings of all committees and Board of Regents
- **July 31, 2008**
  - Credentials/ annual reports submission
- **end of August, 2008**
  - Agenda items for September meetings
- **September 18-21, 2008**
  - Credentials- Exam Committee Meeting
  - Board of Regents Meeting
- **November 1, 2008**
  - Recertification file submission for diplomates of the year 2003
- **November 15, 2008**
  - Abstract submission for Nantes 2009
- **February 4-6, 2009**
  - Board examination in Zurich

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# Continuing education courses 2008

## AO VET courses: 2008

Madrid, Spain	June 19-21	Small animal principles	Spanish/English
San Diego CA, USA	July 31-Aug. 3	Small animal principles & advanced	English
Buenos Aires, Argentina	August 13-15	Small animal principles	Spanish/English
Strömsholm, Sweden	September 25-27	Small animal principles	Swedish/English
Cremona, Italy	October 8-11	Small animal principles	Italian
Glasgow, Scotland GB	November 3-5	Small animal principles	English
Davos, Switzerland	December 6-11	Small animal masters Equine advanced	English English

for more information please contact AOVET Centre Zurich

email: [aovet@vetclinics.uzh.ch](mailto:aovet@vetclinics.uzh.ch) / phone: +41-44-635 8408 or visit [www.aofoundation.org](http://www.aofoundation.org)

## Equine SKI-P.D. 2009 – Courmayeur, Italy January 14-18, 2009

A scientific meeting for equine veterinarians with a programme of broad appeal, consisting of lectures and case-based informal discussion with a panel of internationally experienced speakers, set in the beautiful Italian Alps, with convenient access to international connections.

For more information: B. Mayes or H. Tremaine :[ben.mayes@equinevetpractice.co.uk](mailto:ben.mayes@equinevetpractice.co.uk), [henry.tremaine@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:henry.tremaine@bristol.ac.uk)

## Annual European Equine Basic Arthroscopy Course

September 26 & 27, 2008 Münster / Halle Münsterland

[www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce](http://www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce)

for more information please contact: Anne Berger at: [berger@tierklinik-telgte.com](mailto:berger@tierklinik-telgte.com)

phone +49-2504 933212 or make your registration online under: [www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce](http://www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce)

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# ACVS Veterinary Symposium 2008

Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, California, USA

October 22/23-25                      symposium seminars and scientific abstracts

for additional information visit : [www.acvs.org](http://www.acvs.org) or contact ACVS at their new address

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