

Newsletter

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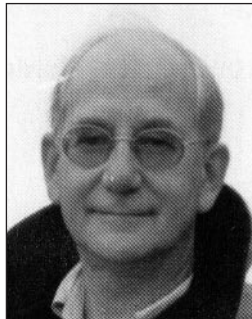
ECVS



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From the Presidents pen



Dear ECVS Diplomates and Residents

This greeting comes from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Dublin. As leaves turn brown and fall, day length shortens and temperatures drop and

as you adjust to the onset of winter I wish you warm and cordial relations with your clients and happy outcomes from your surgical endeavours.

We in Dublin have recently hosted a visitation from EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education) the body designated to supervise standards in basic veterinary education in Europe. It is a reminder that at every level we professionals should strive for excellence in patient care, programs, personnel and facilities.

The 12th ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting in Glasgow was a great experience for all who attended it. Special thanks to all speakers and to our supportive sponsors especially Royal Canin and The IAMS Company and the other major sponsors Vetoquinol, IMEX Inc, Pfizer UK Ltd, Karl Storz GmbH and Co. KG,

Veterinary Instrumentation Ltd, Orthomed, Securos Inc, Boehringer Ingelheim and Vetmedica UK Ltd. The small local organising committee headed by Malcolm Ness did a wonderful job - thank you very much.

The Board of Regents was well briefed by the Examinations Committee on the last morning of the Glasgow meeting and I have great pleasure in naming the successful new Diplomates: Nicholas Bacon, Edward Friend, Mark Glyde, Sigrid Grulke, Barbara Haas, Gerard Kelly, Anne Kummeling, Marc Thomas Launois, Kai Morich, John R. Mosley, Jonathan Shani, Tijn Spoomakers. Three other new members originated from the ACVS: Donald Hulse, Ullrich Reif and Markus Wilke.

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Welcome, each new Diplomate, to ECVS. The College will succeed as you participate and contribute to its activities.

It is entirely appropriate that during 2004, with so much talk of EU accession states from Central and Eastern Europe in the press, the ECVS should plan to hold its annual scientific and business meetings in Prague, a beautiful old city from that part of the continent. I trust that you have submitted your resident seminar or free communication abstract, cleared the dates in your practice and organised your travels!

The Prague program will include the residents forum and free communication sessions as well as plenary and 'state of the art' sessions.

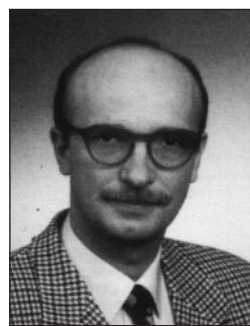
The October, 2003, ACVS Symposium in Washington, DC, was attended by over 1500 veterinarians and animal health workers. It was a pleasure to greet several ECVS Diplomates and residents between sessions. As your representative I attended and addressed the ACVS annual business meeting and I came away with a few ideas for our own business meetings. During the meeting the four full-time staff of ACVS were identified and praised for their fine work. ACVS has about 1000 Diplomates. The 236 ECVS Diplomates continue to enjoy superb service from Monika Gutscher whose position is funded by AOVet. As agreed at the Glasgow meeting the ECVS Board will be developing proposals for additional office support and its necessary funding in time for the Prague meeting. The new ACVS President is Dr Mark Markel and Dr Jamie Bellah is Chair of the Board.

The journal *Veterinary Surgery* will be published by Blackwell Publishing from the first issue in 2004. This marks an important milestone in development of ECVS-ACVS collaboration in publishing. As *Veterinary Surgery* is the ECVS official journal we should think how to increase the number of articles being submitted for consideration from European authors. Congratulations to a former ECVS resident Jackie Demetriou who was awarded a prize at

the ACVS meeting for her paper 'The Effect of Two Modifications of Unilateral Arytenoid Lateralization on Rima Glottidis Area in Dogs' (Vet. Surg. 32:62-68, 2003).

Yours sincerely
Chris Bellenger, President

F rom the chair's corner



Dear fellow
Diplomates, dear
Residents,

This year's summer presented temperatures not experienced for many decades in most European countries and also gave us an excellent Annual Meeting in Glasgow. Whilst the extreme weather conditions might have impeded enthusiasm or workrate of some the Glasgow meeting surely rewarded everybody who made the effort to attend. We experienced stimulating scientific sessions, wonderful social events and once again the cordial hospitality of an extremely dedicated organizing team. And those who could manage to stay a few days longer profited even more from the weather conditions: Scotland presented herself as a superb sunshine country!

Personally, I had the honour to hand over the Presidency to Chris Bellenger. Amongst my first tasks in my new position as Chair of the Board was to say good-bye to my predecessor, Wim Klein. Dear Wim, sincerest thanks for all you did for our College and especially for handing over an active and well functioning Board. André Autefage and Adrian Steiner have also ended their Board terms. As stated during dinner at the impressive Glaswegian Kelvin-grove Museum, we all express our cordial thanks for their contributions and our best wishes for the future. As one of our regents,

John Walmsley, has become our new president elect, three seats in the Board had to be filled. I welcomed three new Board members, Wim Back, Rafael Nickel and Eric Strand, at the Board Meeting at which I presided in Glasgow. I am convinced that they will contribute significantly to keeping the College on its successful track and to developing it further. My sincerest thanks go to Roland Perrin and Eric Viguier, the runners-up in the Board elections. The fact that only a few votes separated them from those elected clearly shows that their competence is well appreciated by the membership. The Board hopes that both of them will stay interested in an active role in our College.

One of the main topics addressed during the Board Meetings in Glasgow was the fact that a definitive meeting venue for the College's 13th Annual Scientific meeting in 2004 had not been found well ahead of time. That of course was not a pleasant fact but it finally led to a wonderful demonstration of our fellow Diplomates' initiative. Our Belgian as well as our Spanish friends spontaneously offered to jump in and prepare a meeting, but of course with certain inevitable drawbacks caused by the short preparation time. Literally on his way back home from Glasgow Zdenek Zert found a location that will be most attractive to all of us: Prague. A large hotel will be able to host all of us and will offer lecture rooms numerous enough and large enough for all the needs of a successful meeting. Please look into the ECVS homepage for details.

Despite this "happy end" the Board definitively wants to avoid similar situations in the future. Our family of veterinary surgeons will not flourish without family reunions, so please do consider making a proposal for a meeting in your country or region. Local organizing work doubtless is strenuous for busy people as we all are. But believe me, having the opportunity to present a location in one's home country to our fellow Diplomates, examinees, speakers and guests and make them feel welcome for a few days, maybe even tempting

them to stay a few days longer, is a rewarding experience.

To avoid "reinventing the wheel" every year by a group of local Diplomates, the Board decided to initiate a standing Annual Meeting Committee. This committee will work towards improving the quality of the scientific programme and relieve the pressure from the local organizers, who took care of local arrangements as well as the scientific programme up to now. The Annual Meeting Committee will include Mike Schramme as large animal programme chair and Chris Bellenger as small animal programme chair. Jörg Auer as executive secretary and Monika Gutscher will act as liaison officers to the local organizers, who will continue to change every year.

You see, our College wants to make the Annual Scientific Meetings what we all would like to experience - THE yearly European top event in veterinary surgery. And a good location is an important part of this goal. So please contact our Executive Secretary, our President or myself and come up with proposals for future meeting sites as soon as possible.

Another thing the Board estimates to be an urgent need is the establishment of a reliable e-mail-addresses database. Newsflashes, reminders and eventually even our newsletter will be distributed more easily and of course more cheaply by this means of communication. Please take the few minutes of time necessary to provide your actual e-mail-address for Monika Gutscher in our Zurich office (an update-form is attached on the backside of this newsletter).

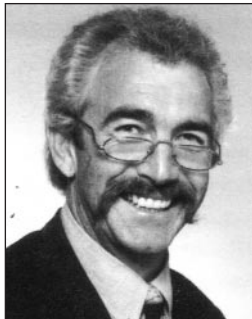
ECVS has been represented at EBVS by the President and Chair of the Board. As both these officers serve on a rotational basis it has been difficult to provide continuity in our effort to build a strong body which will represent veterinary specialisation in Europe. To make our traditionally excellent relationship with EBVS even better, the Board asked Riitta Tulamo to serve as an ECVS representative for the next several years. Consequently, future

EBVS Meetings will be attended by the President of ECVS and Riitta instead of by the President and Chair of the Board.

To end my report I want to wish you all a healthy and successful autumn season. Please do not forget to think about submitting a meeting location proposal, I would be glad to present your ideas at the Board meeting in January!

All the best
Günter Schwarz, Chair of the Board of Regents

From the office



During the past few months we have encountered several problems with our home page. We know it is not perfect at all and after the first experience of this year's "on-line" registration and information on

the home page we know that there is a lot to do to satisfy all needs or to fulfil all wishes. We notice that it is often easier to send an email to the office to ask a question instead of looking on our home page first.

We are interested to improve this media and for this we need your comments and input.

This year many of the Mac -users have changed to the newest system software and probably encountered some problems since while downloading "rtf" files or information from our web site. Please note that these Mac -users have to copy the file from the home page first onto their own desktop or hard disk and open the file via the respective programme afterwards. The powerpoint slide for Prague is located on the "Future meeting" page since end of August but many of you might have had just some signs and letters and never a colour picture or even a slide - so in case you are not able to open the slide just by clicking on the link, then

try the above mentioned procedure. The same holds true for all forms on the "general information" page for the reporting and abstract sections.

Again a call to all our diplomates - please keep the Zurich office informed of any address changes, and let us have your Email - address. We know we have still some Diplomates who do not communicate electronically but in case you are changing your mind in the near future, then please let us know. We also need this information for the EBVS on a regular basis. In the future we would like to send out more information by email and we are also planning on a new Diplomate directory and need therefore the correct and up-to-date address of yours as well as a new picture (if needed).

The deadline for the "call for papers" for the Prague 2004 is over and we are happy to have received a total of 75 abstracts in all fields by end of October without an additional call. Thank you for your contribution and for being on time.

At this point - be reminded that we appreciate your help in assembling a good and fair written examination for next year - we still accept questions even later than the set deadlines. This year it is work-intensive especially for the small animal specialists, as all old Slatter questions have to be replaced - so be sure and help - better one question late than none.

ACVS Resident Publication award for best Clinical Paper goes to former ECVS Resident

The Publications committee of the ACVS elected the paper by JL Demetriou , BM Kirby: The Effect of Two Modifications of Unilateral Arytenoid Lateralization on Rima Glottidis Area in Dogs. *Vet Surg* 32: 62 -68 , 2003 as the the best clinical paper published in Veterinary Surgery during the year of 2003. Unfortunately, Jackie Demetriou was not present during the Award ceremony at the recent ACVS Annual Meeting in Washington DC. Therefore, Barbara Kirby accepted the award in Jackie Demetriou's name. We would like to congratulate the award winners and encourage all residents to enter

their publications in Veterinary Surgery. This award clearly demonstrates that ECVS Residents are judged at the same level as ACVS Residents. To be involved is rewarding in the best sense of the word.

The Research Award went to: CL Dasleer, KS Schulz, P Kass, S Stover. The effects of femoral

stem and neck length on cement strains in a canine total hip replacement model. *Vet Surg* 32:37-45, 2003.

ECVS congratulates these researchers as well.

Jörg Auer, executive secretary

The Queen visits ECVS Diplomate

The Royal Veterinary College in London recently enjoyed a visit from Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, who came to open two new buildings at the College, the new Large Animal Clinical Centre (designed mostly by Diplomat ECVS Stephen May) and the Learning Resources Centre. We speculate that Stephen might be explaining to the Queen what she will need to do to pass the ECVS exam?!



Awardwinners

Winners of the ECVS / IAMS Award 2003.

The high standards of this year's Resident Forum made the selection of the award winners really difficult. Runner up in the Large Animal section was Robin van den Boom, from Utrecht with his presentation on "Influences on hydroxyproline levels in synovial fluids". The winner in this section was Safia Barakzai from the University of Edinburgh, for her presentation on "Three "ectomies" for the treatment of dorsal displacement of the soft palate in racing thoroughbreds". The Small Animal section runner up was Marianna Tryfonidou, also from Utrecht, for her presentation on "The influences of moderate Vitamin D supplementation on endochondral ossification in dogs" and the winner of the ECVS Iams Residents Award in this section was Arthur House from the Royal College in London, for his presentation on "The expression of cytokine m-RNA in canine anal lesions".

All winners are congratulated by the Board and we thank IAMS for its generous support which made these awards possible.

Thank you!

Our meetings would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We thank all our sponsors, supporting companies and exhibitors for their financial support, their help and assistance, their presence and for helping to make the Scientific Meeting a success.

Major Sponsors:

Vetoquinol
IMEX Inc
Pfizer UK Ltd
Karl Storz GmbH & Co.KG
Veterinary Instrumentation Ltd
Orthomed
Securos Inc
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica UK Ltd
The Iams Company (a division of Procter & Gamble International Operations SA)
Royal Canin

Sponsors and exhibitors:

Ossacur
Medivance Ltd
HMT High Medical Technologies AG
Elsevier Ltd
Labpak Ltd
Veterinary Transplant Services
Virbac UK Ltd
Pet ID UK Ltd
Schering Plough UK Ltd
Jupiter Systems
EVJ Ltd
MC Medical Ltd
Synthes - Stratec
AO-Vet Centre

Evaluation of the Glasgow meeting

I think the President and the Chair of the Board of Regents expressed our general feeling that the Glasgow-meeting was a successful one.

Here is the meeting in figures:

Numbers of attendees at the pre-courses:

Stapling: 14,

External Fixator: 16

Minimal Invasive Surgery: 24

MiniForum, numbers are approximate

40 Small Animal and 23 Large Animal

Paying attendees for the annual meeting: 280

The evaluation form was returned by 83 attendees. Not all questions were answered by all persons.

1. Practitioners 31%, Faculty clinicians 30%, Residents 37%!, Students 1%
2. Diplomates: 39%
3. National veterinary specialists: 32%
Large animal practitioners: 34%,
Small animal practitioners 66%
4. 77% learned about the meeting by mailings from the ECVS, 16.5% learned from colleagues, 2.5% responded to advertisements in journals and 4% experienced from different sources.

Comment: This would mean that approximately only 7 persons were attracted to the meeting by advertising in journals (low cost-effective score) and most came to the meeting as a result of mailings from the office and propaganda by diplomates. It stresses the importance of an active propagating membership. Please mention the ECVS meetings at any possible opportunity (courses, lectures, presentations).

Next aspects of the meeting were graded 1(poor), 2(mediocre), 3(acceptable), 4(good), 5(excellent).

The problem in this scoring could be that figures smaller than 1 and larger than 5 cannot

be given and therefore both poor and excellent may be underestimated. A solution may be found in rounding, where 3.5 would be good and 4.5 would be excellent. By these criterion Glasgow was a good meeting:

- 5. The meeting Organisation was . . .4.00
- 6. The quality of the proceedings book was4.03
- 7. The location of the meeting was .3.65
- 8. The hotel facilities were3.39

(Note: this refers to quite a number of different facilities)

- 10. The social events were4.29
- 11. The overall quality of the meeting was.3.93
- 12. Combined - State of the art -Minimally invasive techniques4.09
- Combined - Reconstructive
- Techniques3.74

Large Animal Subtopics:

Resident Forum:	3.89
State of the art Minimally Invasive Techniques	4.06
In Depth Tendon Injuries	4.30
In Depth Neurology	3.67
In Depth Reconstructive Surgery	3.58
Short Communications, General Topics	3.75
Short Communications, Orthopaedics	4.00

The Overall Weighted Mean Score for the Large Animal Topics: 3.84

Small Animal Subtopics:

Resident Forum	3.80
In Depth Osteoarthritis	3.31
In Depth Cardiac Surgery	3.76
In Depth Linear External Fixator	3.42
Short Communications, General Topics	3.92
Short Communications, Orthopaedics	3.90

The Overall Weighted Mean Score for the Small Animal Topics 3.69

Comment: This time the Resident Forum scored better than the mean scores for Large and Small Animal Topics. Congratulations Residents! The figures also justify the conclusion that the Large Animal Topics scored a little better than the Small Animal Topics. Winner was In Depth Tendon Injuries with a score close to excellent!

Posters: 3.31

N.B.: This item was filled in by only 37 persons. The clue may be found in three remarks: "Poor location"

17 Speakers were mentioned as providing Excellent Presentations in Large Animal Topics. The most named was Walmsley, followed closely by Auer, Smith, van Weeren and Schramme

21 Speakers were mentioned as providing Excellent Presentations in Small Animal Topics. The most named was Brockman, followed closely by Hulse, Toombs and Jeffreys and Smith

A few presentations were considered substandard.

Dirk Riemersma, Chair of the PR Committee

From the Credentials Committee

Establishing a new ECVS residency or training programme, and recruiting a new trainee in an approved residency programme.



How to get approval for a new standard Veterinary Surgery Residency Programme (VSRP).

The programme supervisor should submit to the ECVS a detailed written description of the proposed programme, following the guidelines in the ECVS Training Brochure (TB). To receive approval, a programme must satisfy completely all the requirements listed under the General Programme Description in the TB. The application must be complete and include a detailed description of how the 12 Training elements will be fulfilled, a description of the facilities and equipment and a floor plan of the hospital.

It's quite possible to have a standard VSRP in a private hospital. For such a programme a number of additional criteria must be fulfilled in order to insure a good "learning environment" for the trainee. Please refer to the TB for details.

A new programme may be provisionally accepted by the Credentials Committee (CC) in advance, before the first trainee is recruited, or the programme and the first trainee may be evaluated together.

Please note that a new programme must be accepted by the CC before training is started. A common error is to submit the application only after training is started. Training performed before approval will not be accepted retroactively.

Before taking on the responsibility to become a programme supervisor, consider if your situation will allow you to supervise the resident

according to the requirements laid down in the TB. The CC has noticed that in several programmes the supervising Diplomate has heavy administrative, research or other tasks, and spends little time with hands-on surgery. Surgeons other than the supervisor, for example experienced senior staff surgeons, may of course also work together with the resident, but as a complement to and not instead of the supervising Diplomate.

Before applying, check the requirements in the TB so that the application is complete and that the correct forms are used, to avoid any unnecessary problems or delays.

How to recruit a new trainee in an accepted standard VSRP

Provided no changes were made in the programme since the programme application regarding the supervisor, facilities, equipment, services or case load, the supervisor may recruit a new trainee.

The guidelines for pre-residency clinical experience must be followed. Residents entering a Standard VSRP should have been qualified a minimum of two years and have been working in an appropriate veterinary or medical field. As an exception to the rule, an institution with a structured internship programme may apply for approval through the CC. In such a case the description of the programme has to be sent to the CC ahead of time. If accepted, interns going through this programme would fulfil their pre-residency clinical experience after only one year.

A supervisor may have a maximum of three trainees at any time. An alternate trainee also counts as one of the three. When a trainee has fulfilled all parts of the programme except for the publication requirement the supervisor may take on a new trainee. Before taking on

additional trainees it's important to consider if the institution / hospital has a case load big enough to support several trainees! Inadequate case load has been a problem mainly in some LA programmes.

Each new Resident must provide a written report to ECVS at the start of the residency, and of course annually thereafter.

Starting an alternate Veterinary Surgery Training Programme (VSTP)

When the prospective trainee can provide good reasons for not being able to follow a standard VSRP, enrolment in an alternate VSTP may be possible. The aims of the ECVS alternate VSTP is to provide an alternate route to achieving the same standard of surgical training, experience and expertise without compromising the quality of the education. The alternate VSTP does not exist to provide an easier route for those unable to cope with the demands of a Standard VSRP.

An alternate VSTP is intended only for experienced and established Veterinary Surgeons. Evidence of considerably more than two years previous clinical practice will be required. Normally, the CC expects at least 6-8 years of dedicated surgical experience. The reason for this rule is that a major part of an alternate programme is carried out by the trainee in his/her own clinic without direct contact with the supervisor, and it is necessary to be experienced to be able to perform this part of the training adequately. Also, an established surgeon may have a good reason for not being able to leave their own clinic to follow a three year full time standard VSRP.

An alternate VSTP is designed by the trainee. A detailed outline of how the trainee plans to fulfil each of the 12 Training Elements should be submitted for approval by the CC. Please note that each individual alternate VSTP programme and trainee must be evaluated and approved by the CC before training is started. Even when the supervisor already has an alternate trainee, each programme is individual and especially designed for the trainee.

Therefore, contrary to standard VSRP programmes, a complete application for each new programme and trainee must be submitted. Again, **an alternate programme must be approved before any training begins, and such a programme / trainee will not be accepted retroactively!**

Many applications for new alternate programmes are turned down by the CC. The most common reason for rejection is that the trainee is not experienced enough to be accepted as an alternate trainee. It is also common that the proposed schedule is obviously unrealistic. A few alternate programmes are very well carried out, with adequate supervision following the plan submitted in the application. But unfortunately the CC's experience with alternate programmes over the years is that most trainees are unable to cope with the requirement to spend the necessary time away from their own clinic together with the supervisor. Several such programmes had to be terminated after one or two years when it was obvious that they did not work. The CC's strong advice to prospective supervisors and trainees contemplating an alternate programme is to consider the possibility to organize a standard VSRP, or to enter an existing VSRP programme.

Lennart Sjöström, Chair of the Credentials Committee

Prague as an ECVS congress meeting city



The 2004 (13th) Annual Scientific Meeting of ECVS will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from July 2-4. I am happy to invite you all into our small central European country, which belonged for a long time to the eastern block. Forty years of separation from the developed world significantly influenced the development of the veterinary surgery. Selecting Prague for the next meeting of ECVS is an important step towards improving the situation. But ECVS is not

the first college to choose Prague for its meeting. Last year the ECVN held their congress here to the great satisfaction of Andre Jaggy and his team. Prague is also the location of several human medicine meetings and the hotel facility which we have chosen for the ECVS meeting is familiar with these kinds of meetings.

A minor problem may be that it is not practical to invite you to our University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno. Our university town is located 220 km from Prague and travelling this distance from the Prague airport may not be acceptable to the attendees of congress. The Brno Airport is very small and lacks connections to the major European cities. Some of you have visited our scientific meetings at the university in the past and I am confident that some more will find the opportunity in the future to assess our conditions for veterinary education.

I am convinced that Prague will be an excellent city for our meeting. There are very good direct flight connections to all the European countries. Prague has a good public transportation network. It is easily accessible by car (German border is 150 km away by motorway). Our hotel is not in the centre of the town but is comfortable, price friendly and big enough to accept all of us in both sections. We will use the welcome cocktail and festival dinner to introduce you to some historic parts of the city and the culture of the country. You are welcome to come with your spouses or families, for whom we are preparing guided tours through parts of our city with its rich history.

2004 is a very important year for the Czech Republic. From the 1st of May our country will be a new member of the European Union. The meeting of ECVS may support the gradual process of integration of the Czech veterinary community into Europe. We will certainly do our best to be a good host country for the 13th annual scientific meeting of the ECVS and we count on you being there to make this meeting successful.

Zdenek Zert, local programme committee



Courses

Continuing education courses for Residents / Trainees recommended by the ECVS credentials committee:

for detailed information please contact ECVS office Zurich

AO/ASIF courses 2004

Small animals

Bad Langensalza, Germany	February 20–22	principles	German
Brides Les Bains, France	March 7 – 14	principles	French
Salzburg	March 25 – 27	advanced	German
(see details below)			
Columbus Ohio, USA	May 6 – 9	principles	English
		advanced	English
Madrid, Spain*	June 21 – 27	principles	Spanish
Davos, Switzerland*	December 4 – 9		English

*(in preparation)

Equine

Oberdorf, Switzerland	February 26 – 28	principles	English
	(some practical work station in German if requested)		
Columbus Ohio, USA	May 6 – 9	principles	English

Equine Arthroscopy 2004 (organised by Dr. J. Boening, Telgte)

12th Annual European basic equine Arthroscopy course

May 21 & 22, English

Münster Westfalen, Germany

Please contact:

Beatrix Holle at VetEndScope, fax +49-2381-960747

E-mail: BeatrixHolle@t-online.de

AO /ASIF advanced techniques in small animals held in German

Wissenschaftl. Leitung: Dr. Günter Schwarz, Dipl. ECVS

5.Österreichischer AOVet-Kurs

2. Kurs für Fortgeschrittene

“Frakturbehandlung und Orthopädie bei Kleintieren”

25. bis 27. März 2004 in Salzburg

Information und Anmeldung:

AO-Kurssekretariat

Postfach 26

A-5017 Salzburg

Tel. +43(0)662/828525

Fax +43(0)662/828525-28



A dressform

Please complete the following form and return it to ECVS office:

ECVS office

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

University of Zurich

Winterthurerstrasse 260

CH-8057 Zurich

Switzerland

Fax: +41-1-3130384

e-mail: ecvs@vetclinics.unizh.ch

Name

Title

Adress

Zip / City

Country

Work phone

Work fax

e-mail

Specialty:

LA

LA (equine)

LA (food animal)

SA

Home address and phone

Nationality

Date of birth

Surgical emphasis

Research interest