

What we are doing to create healthy horse hooves and less lameness at NC State

Richard A. Mansmann, VMD, PhD

Our research program is directed at determining what is normal for healthy horses' feet. Then when we see lame, or horses with abnormal foot conformation, we have a range of normal to direct our mechanical (either shoeing or trimming) treatments. Next is to evaluate over a number of cases how our treatments are helping these horses. And finally publish our results to help other horses, farriers, veterinarians and owners.

Our Service has grown in 2 ½ years from 2 days to 3 days in the clinics; Tu and Th at the Equine Hospital in Raleigh and Wed at the Equine Health Center in Southern Pines. The Program is well underway with publication as a co-editor of *Equine Podiatry* (Elsevier 2007) and as an invited speaker at the Charles Huemphreus Memorial Lecture, UC Davis and BEVA&NAFB&AE Joint meeting in Nottingham, England, 2008. We have instituted several veterinary student related courses and discussions to help veterinary students have a better understanding of the horse's foot and its importance. We have published several articles in lay horse magazines describing our work.

Our three year goal would be to acquire an associate veterinarian who would work in the clinic as well as continue to develop our equine podiatry research. This individual as well as our entire Program would interact with other research and clinical programs within the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and Engineering, as well as other practices and Colleges.

This summer we are starting a collaborative pilot project with the VTH Orthopedic Service to examine foot conformation in relationship to equine lameness cases that receive an MRI. This information will help us determine if abnormal foot conformation plays a role in causes for these equine lameness. It is funded by the North Carolina Horse Council and assisted by the Merck-Merial veterinary student summer assistance program. This will be our second Merck-Merial summer student. We hope to continue this multi-beneficial program each summer.

Finally over the next 3 years develop the Rehabilitation portion of the Program. We have begun a collaborative Equine Nutrition Group with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This group puts together clinicians and researchers that have the potential of helping establish important nutrition information. The second phase of Rehabilitation is to hire a Rehab Therapy technician who would organize that portion of the Program within the Equine Hospital.

Immediate needs for NC State College of Veterinary Medicine Equine Podiatry & Rehabilitation Program

Money for clinically applied studies to be published for veterinarians and farriers.

- Causes and treatment of Long Toe/Low Heel syndrome
- Causes and treatment of Club Feet
- Causes and treatment of Chronic Laminitis

Any sum of money would be helpful.

Make checks out to NCVMF and in the memo section write EQ Podiatry and send to:

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Summer Research Student	\$5,000
Research Tech	\$150,000 (3 years at \$50,000/year)
Rehab Therapist	\$180,000 (3 years at \$60,000/year)
Endowed Professorship	\$350,000 The money will be matched by the College & by the University.
Scale for outside Breezeway	\$5,000
“On Track” Computer Program	\$5,000

Questions or comments to: dick_mansmann@ncsu.edu or see www.vet-equine.com