



EQUINE CONFERENCE 2025

Combining scientific
principles with effective
horse owner care practices

MACDONALD BURLINGTON HOTEL
BIRMINGHAM
21-22 NOVEMBER

PROGRAMME

British Society of Animal Science | 18 North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5NA
Website: www.bsas.org.uk | Email: bsas@bsas.org.uk



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

FRIDAY 21ST, NOVEMBER



09:15 - 09:45 | REGISTRATION & Arrival Refreshments (Horton C Foyer)

10:00 - 10:15 | WELCOME | Dr Helen Warren, BSAS President & Alltech (Horton C Room)

MORNING SESSIONS | 10:15 - 12:30 | 3 STREAMS

REPRODUCTION & GENETICS (Diamond Room)

Introduction | Session Chair | Dr Victoria Lindsay-McGee, University of Edinburgh

Keynote Speaker:

Dr Debbie Guest, Royal Veterinary College | Unravelling the genetic basis of fracture risk in Thoroughbred racehorses

Abstract Presentations:

Rumesha Siriwardena | Mechanistic Insights into the Function of VapA from Equine Rhodococcus

Charlotte Cuffe | Multi-omic characterisation of equine muscle associated with equine exertional rhabdomyolysis

Elizabeth Attree | Methylation profiling of thoroughbred horses with myopathies and tendinopathies to investigate regulatory

Victoria Lindsay-McGee | Knowledge and priorities of UK and European equine industry stakeholders regarding equine genetics

THERAPY & REHABILITATION (Drummond Room)

Introduction | Session Chair | Dr Kirsty Lesniak, Hartpury University

Keynote Speaker:

Dr Vicki Walker, Hartpury University | Exercising Choice: From Science to Practice in Equine Rehabilitation

Abstract Presentations:

Adelaide Chinn | Effect of a Single Acupressure Treatment on the Mechanical Nociceptive Thresholds (MNTs) of the Equine Epaxial Back Musculature

Laura Howard | Preliminary investigation into the effects of chiropractic treatment and when combined with TECAR therapy on mechanical nociceptive thresholds of the thoracolumbar musculature in mixed breed riding horses

Charlotte Baker | Investigation into the Recommended Therapeutic Modalities for Horses with Overriding Dorsal Spinous Processes

Roberta Blake | Is there a difference in pressure under a Pessoa Training Aid when using different pads underneath the roller?

BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE (Horton C Room)

Introduction | Session Chair | Lorna Cameron, Hartpury University

Keynote Speaker:

Prof Leanne Proops | University of Portsmouth | Understanding the Role of Facial Expressions in Horse Communication

Abstract Presentations:

Freya Ward | The Influence of Social Media on Public Perception and Attitude Regarding the Equine Industry and its Social License to Operate

Danica Pollard | A good farrier is like gold. Once you find one don't let go.' - routine hoof care practices and problems accessing hoof care by horse, pony, donkey and mule carers

Charlotte Dodson | A Provisional Study into soundscape for stabled horses

Catherine Bradley | Differences in perceptions and understanding of equine behaviour between categories of hoof care professional - a worldwide survey

Linda Greening | Shedding light on stable lighting practices in the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Saranna Jordan | Searching for success: Exploring key indicators for suitable second careers for former racehorses

Anya Dyson | A survey investigating the health and welfare implications, risk factors and behavioural markers of learned helplessness in horses

LUNCH | 12:30 - 13:00 (Horton C Foyer)

FRIDAY 21ST, NOVEMBER



CAREER PANEL DISCUSSION | 13:00 - 13:45 (Horton C Room)

Professionals from diverse equine fields explore career opportunities and possibilities. Join the discussion to find out more in this interactive session where the audience will have opportunity to quiz the panel.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS | 14:00 - 17:30 | 3 STREAMS

HORSE & RIDER PERFORMANCE (Horton C Room)

Introduction | Session Chair | Dr David Marlin, President NEWC

Keynote Speakers:

Dr Sarah Jane Hobbs, UCLan | Managing Balance: A Horse Perspective

Dr Russell McKechnie-Guire, Centaur Biomechanics /Hartpury | Horse and Rider Interaction: Rider Aysmmetry

Prof. Jane Williams, Hartpury University | From instincts to insights: applying performance analysis in equestrian sport

Abstract Presentations:

Abdulaziz Dharman | Training Flat Racehorses in Hot Climates in Qatar: Trainers' Perceptions

Anne-Maarit Hyttinen | Effects of strength and/or endurance training on the physical fitness and riding performance of national and international level female equestrians

Warren Lamperd | What is coaching for an elite equestrian rider?

Roberta Blake | Effect of Girth Design and Girth Tension on Saddle-Horse Pressures and Forelimb Stride Kinematics in Rising Trot

Roberta Blake | Pressure Distribution when Riding Horses with a Saddle Compared to a Bareback Pad in Walk and Sitting Trot

Richard Seals | Equestrian Coaches' Use of Positive Pedagogy and Game-Based Approaches to Develop Decision-Making in Riders

Natasha Andrews | An investigation into how British Showjumping coaches assess and promote "A Good Life for a horse" in training sessions

NUTRITION & FEEDING: FEEDING HORSES IN THE FUTURE (Drummond Room)

Introduction | Session Chairs | Dr Simon Daniels, Royal Agricultural University & Dr Stephanie Wood, Equine Nutritionist

Keynote Speakers:

Ruth Bishop, HJ Lea Oakes , Chair BETA Feed Committee | Industry perspectives on feeding horses in the future

Dr Dave Davies, Silage Solutions Ltd | Forage Management for Nutrition and Hygiene

Abstract Presentations:

Robert Furnage | Occurrence and Risk Assessment of Mycotoxins in UK Horse Feed

Simon Daniels | Feeding and management practices and Equine Gastric Ulceration Syndrome (EGUS) prevalence in UK TB racehorses

Jennifer Little | The Effect of Forage Bag Design on Rate of Hay Consumption in Horses

HEALTH & DISEASE (Diamond Room)

Introduction, Session Chair | Dr Kirsty Lesniak, Hartpury University

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Scott Pirie, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies | Equine Grass Sickness – zeroing in on the elusive cause

Abstract Presentations:

Justyna Kalbarczyk | Animal Fascial Manipulation for ulcer problems in horses

Kirsty Gartland | Equine Neonatal Sepsis: The Ability of Equestrians to Identify Healthy Foal Parameters and their Confidence in Recognising Typical Clinical Signs

Maria Jádice da Costa | Antimicrobial Activity of Cannabinoids and Terpenes Towards Common Equine Wound Pathogens and their Biofilms

Cerys McMurray | "I don't know whether I'm doing the right thing or the wrong thing": a qualitative exploration of beliefs and practices in relation to equine parasite management in Northern Ireland

CLOSE

SATURDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER



09:15 - 09:45 | REGISTRATION & Arrival Refreshments (Horton C Foyer)

10:00 - 10:15 | WELCOME | Dr Helen Warren, BSAS President & Alltech (Horton C Room)

MORNING SESSIONS | 10:15 - 12:30 | 2 STREAMS

ALLIED PROFESSIONALS (Horton C Room)

Introduction | Session Chair | Dr Helen Warren, Alltech

Keynote Speakers:

James Arkley, Equine Dental Technician | Equine Dental Care

Di Fisher, Bridle Fitter | Bridle Fitting for Performance and Welfare

Ben Benson, Farrier | Farriery unblocking performance

Sally Charlton, McTimoney Practitioner | More than horse sense, evidence based benefits of equine chiropractic for performance

HORSE OWNER (Diamond Room)

Tailored workshops for horse owners.

Introduction | Session Chair | Dr Stephanie Wood, Equine Nutritionist

Workshop 1 - Forage for nutrition and managing pasture

Dr Dave Davies, Silage Solutions Ltd

Workshop 2 - Parasites

Dr Simon Daniels, Royal Agricultural University

Workshop 3 - Keeping our horses sound

Dr Gillian Tabor, ACPAT Chartered Physiotherapist

LUNCH | 12:30 - 13:30 (Horton C Foyer)

ALLIED PROFESSIONALS PANEL DISCUSSION | 13:30 - 15:00 (Horton C Room)

An engaging session with keynote speakers from the allied professional stream as they participate in a panel dialogue. They will delve into collaborative strategies for horse management and respond to audience questions.

REFRESHMENT BREAK | 15:00 - 15:15 (Horton C Foyer)

PLENARY | 15:15 - 16:15 (Horton C Room)

Dr David Marlin discusses the equine industry's social license to operate, as well as recent research into aspects of horse welfare.

CLOSING REMARKS | 16:15 - 16:30 (Horton C Room)

Dr Helen Warren, Alltech

CLOSE

**We deeply
appreciate our
wonderful
supporters,
without whom we
would not have
been able to host
this conference,
and those who
joined us at the
event, thank you!**



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of EDINBURGH**