

# AOVET Focus Course—Diagnosis and Management of Common Fractures in the Thoroughbred Racehorse

March 28-31, 2017



# **Course description**

Participants will learn actions they can take to reduce the risk of occurrence of common fractures in racehorses. The pathogenesis of these injuries will be explained and imaging modalities used to diagnose early fracture states will be illustrated. Participants will have the opportunity to practice interpretation of relevant radiographs, ultrasound images and scintigraphic studies in order to enhance their ability to identify critical signs that precede catastrophic fracture.

Participants will be given the opportunity to develop their skills in the surgical repair of common fractures through a series of practical laboratories that conclude with wet labs, allowing them to practice the full procedure under arthroscopic guidance on cadaver limbs. In addition, participants will learn the benefits of placing implants to stabilize fractures in conscious horses under local anaesthesia and how to identify cases suitable for standing surgery. Participants will also learn how to assess the quality of repair of fractures that involve an articular surface and to decide when and how to re-operate if necessary.

The course will extend over three and a half days and will include a balance of interactive lectures, small group discussions and practical exercises with ample time to interact and discuss with course faculty.

# **Course Chairperson**

# Christopher Riggs

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Head of Veterinary Clinical Services

# **International Faculty**

# Jörg Auer

Former Chairman AOVET

# **International Faculty**

### Dean Richardson

University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center Charles W. Raker Professor of Surgery, Chief of Large Animal Surgery

# Faculty

### **Paul Robinson**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Specialist Equine Surgeon

# **Course objectives**

On completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the importance of and diagnose fatigue fractures in racehorses.
- Develop and implement optimal treatment plans for management of incomplete fractures.
- Achieve accurate anatomical reduction and rigid internal fixation of fractures involving an articular surface using minimally invasive techniques under arthroscopic direction.
- Undertake critical appraisal of surgical repair of a fracture involving an articular surface, assess
  the clinical consequences of remaining imperfections and determine and execute a suitable
  revision plan if necessary.
- Select cases of common racehorse fractures that are suitable for standing repair by internal fixation and perform the surgical procedure.
- Develop a plan for rehabilitation of horses following fracture repair.

# **Target participants**

Equine surgeons who provide clinical services to racehorses, or are interested in providing clinical care for racehorses. Previous attendance at an AOVET Principles in Equine Fracture Repair course and experience in arthroscopy are strongly encouraged.