



EQUINE RESEARCH RECOGNISED IN 'THESIS OF THE YEAR' AWARD SHORTLIST

The shortlist for the 2010 EQVALAN® Duo Equine Thesis of the Year Award has been announced, highlighting the very best in equine related projects taking place in universities and colleges throughout the UK.

Now in its twelfth year, the award, sponsored by Merial Animal Health, is given by the Royal Agricultural Society of England each year to recognise outstanding academic achievement in the equestrian field and to showcase the best academic research to the equestrian industry.

Brian Warren, Chief Executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, comments: "The horse is taking an ever-more important role in rural Britain – as a leisure pursuit for many hundreds of thousands of people, in sport and for landowners who are diversifying their businesses by moving into livery and other horse related activities. This award is a great way of giving recognition to the future thought-leaders in the sector and we hope it also encourages other academic institutions and their students to continue in their valuable work."

This year's shortlisted theses are:

- Kelly Dinwiddy, Hartpury College: The effect of Dental Correction on the Faecal Partical Size of Forty Horses
- Rebecca Mundy, Writtle College: An Epidemiological Study into the Prevalence of Recurrent Exertional Rhabdomyolysis and Possible Dietary Risk Factors in a Thoroughbred Racehorse Population in Ireland
- Jessica Putnam, University of Nottingham: Equine lameness: Incidence, causes, outcomes and risk factors in a working horse population

- Declan Ryan, University of Limerick: Haematological Parameters of Irish Thoroughbred Horses: Normal Values and the Effect of Age and Sex

Shortlisted students will now have to defend their thesis to a panel of judges, including the editor of Horse & Rider magazine Nicky Moffatt, and the 2006 winner Rachel Kay. The winner, to be announced on Friday 12th November 2010, will receive a cash prize, trophy and membership to the Royal Agricultural Society. They may also have the opportunity to present their thesis to the National Equine Forum in March.

Final day judge Dr Emma Batson from Merial Animal Health says: "Research and development is key to our business so it's very satisfying to see that the innovative spirit remains strong within the UK's academic institutions. The quality of entrants this year has been excellent and there is some very valuable work taking place that deserves a great deal of respect and recognition.

"We're looking forward to meeting the finalists, but I'm sure it's going to be a challenge to select an overall winner!"

—————**ENDS**

About RASE

The Royal Agricultural Society of England, plays a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science and the promotion of best practice. www.rase.org.uk

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About Merial

Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs approximately 5,700 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2009 sales were over \$2.6 billion. Merial is the Animal Health subsidiary of sanofi-aventis.

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