



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY *of* ENGLAND

3D Anatomy Of The Cervical Articular Process Joint Wins Royal Agricultural Society of England Eqvalan Duo® Equine Student Award

A study aiming to describe the 3D anatomy of the articular process joint in the neck of the horse has won the Royal Agricultural Society of England's 'Eqvalan Duo Equine Thesis of the Year Award', held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire on Friday 13th November.

Holly Claridge from the Royal Veterinary College said she did the study because the joint has received little research attention yet disorders such as osteoarthritis and osteochondrosis have been linked to spinal cord compression.

Holly has just graduated from the RVC and is due to start working in a general practice in Norfolk but is keeping an open mind for the future. She said "It is fantastic to have my research recognised and a great honour to have been selected from such strong competitors."

Her winning thesis was selected from research theses submitted by universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland. The 5 finalists presented their studies which judges Jan Rogers (British Equestrian Federation), Dr Emma Batson (Merial Animal Health), Professor Pat Harris (Mars Horsecare Ltd), Alison Bridge (Horse & Rider magazine) and Rachel Kay (2006 winner) described as "fascinating and extremely useful information for the industry."

Second prize winner was Ann Clausen of Writtle College for her dissertation: 'Analysis of the trait scoring data in Futurity Evaluations (2005-2008) for young sports horses.'

Ann analysed scoring data captured in the first four years of the British Equestrian Federation's Futurity evaluations, directed at young British bred sports horses. She found that the evaluations represent a valuable tool for the future development of genetic evaluations within the UK sports horse population and are a critical factor in the drive towards a more strategic improvement of the British bred sports horse.

Dr Emma Batson of sponsor, Merial Animal Health, congratulated all the finalists and said: "The standard of the entries in the award rises every year – all the finalists were outstanding, and certainly good enough to have won in previous years, but the judges were unanimous that Holly's contribution had the edge."

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Notes to Editors

About Royal Agricultural Society of England

Since 1838, The Royal Agricultural Society of England has played a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science, the promotion of best practice and a coordinated, impartial approach to wide-ranging rural issues. Today the Society's work includes support for business and social welfare in rural communities, education, and world famous shows and events.

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 2008 sales were over \$2.6 billion. Merial is a separate subsidiary of sanofi-aventis. For more information, please see www.merial.com