



media release

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AHT VET INDUCTED INTO EQUINE HALL OF FAME

The Animal Health Trust's (AHT) Dr Sue Dyson has been awarded a place in the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame, in recognition of her contribution to hoof care in horses.

Dr Sue Dyson, Head of Clinical Orthopaedics at the AHT, has lectured internationally and is known for both her clinical work with horses and an extensive research record, having published more than 200 refereed papers on lameness and diagnostic imaging in scientific journals. She has also co-authored several veterinary textbooks as well as training and competing as a high-level rider in international events.

Established in 1997, the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame honours veterinarians who have contributed to the knowledge and recognition of proper hoof care for horses. Vets are nominated either as practicing equine vets who work closely with farriers in the field, or as college and industry vets involved in teaching, research or other important aspects of equine veterinary and hoof care.

Anyone can nominate an equine vet for the award, which is sponsored by the American Farriers Journal, but selection is completed by previous inductees into the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame. Awards are presented each year during the International Hoof-Care Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sue is delighted to have received this award and said: "I was completely surprised, but absolutely thrilled, to learn that I had been selected to join the distinguished list of people who have previously been appointed to the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame.

"I think it is very humbling to recognise that, despite the knowledge that my team and I have amassed in the last 30 years, there is so much more to learn. From every new finding come many more questions. I hope that the enthusiastic dedication of my team will continue to result in learning and discovering more, and inspire others to do likewise, to the ultimate benefit of the welfare of our great friend, the horse."

Dr Sue Dyson, who has worked at the AHT for 30 years, is currently researching the association between hindlimb lameness and saddle slip. Dr Sue Dyson has observed for several years some association between

the two, however saddle slip has traditionally been attributed to an ill-fitting saddle, asymmetry of the horse's back shape or a crooked rider.

In 2011 a prospective research project undertaken at the AHT by Dr Dyson and intern Line Greve; 'Saddle slip may be an indicator of the presence of hindlimb lameness' presented at the 51st Annual Congress of the British Equine Veterinary Association, Birmingham 2012, identified that in some cases, saddle slip was directly linked to the presence of hindlimb lameness.

Research results showed that of 128 horses assessed for lameness grade and degree of saddle slip when ridden by two riders, the saddle consistently slipped to one side in 54% of the horses with hindlimb lameness, in comparison to just 4% of the horses with forelimb lameness. Diagnostic analgesia to abolish the hindlimb lameness eliminated the saddle slip in 97% of the horses observed in the study.

Dyson and Greve are currently undertaking further research to measure movement of the back, and forces under the saddle, with the aim of explaining biomechanically what is happening during the occurrence of saddle slip.

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For further information, please contact:

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Additional notes:

- The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit our website at www.aht.org.uk
- The **Animal Health Trust** relies on generous donations from the public in order to keep doing its vital work. To become a friend of the **Animal Health Trust** for just £2 a month, please visit our website.
- For more information on the International Equine Veterinarians Hall of Fame visit www.americanfarriers.com/pages/International-Equine-Veterinarians-Hall-Of-Fame