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March 17, 2009

Dr. Roger Avery
Associate Dean for Research
Virginia Technical Institute
Duckpond Drive, Phase II, Room 218
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Avery,

The RMTC is accepting proposals that investigate the pharmacokinetics (PK) of glucocorticoids in horses after intravenous (IV) and intra-articular (IA) administration in order to develop rational threshold values and withdrawal times.

Corticosteroids are frequently administered into joints (intra-articular [IA]) for the treatment of lameness in horses. This practice is widespread and relatively uncontrolled in general equine practice. The primary rationale for IA administration of corticosteroids is the local ("on site") reduction of pain and inflammation, the common denominator in all joint injuries. Regardless of their popularity, the IA administration of corticosteroids has recently become controversial due to conflicting data questioning the efficacy of the specific drug administered, and the potential for beneficial or detrimental effects based upon drug dose and frequency of administration. Corticosteroids (glucocorticoids) of key interest to the RMTC include (drug [drug priority]): dexamethasone [P2], betamethasone [P3], methylprednisolone [P3], triamcinolone [P3], beclomethasone [P4], prednisolone [P4], fluorprednisolone [P5], isoflupredone [P5], prednisone [P5].

The deadline for submission of proposals is May 1, 2009. Please send to:

RMTC
821 Corporate Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

Thanks,

Bill Muir DVM PhD ACVA ACVECC
RMTC Research Consultant