

University of Florida, Companies Plan Equine Health Forums

Horse owners are invited to come discuss the topic of preventable equine diseases.

February 23, 2009

In the aftermath of an outbreak of equine botulism in Florida, the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, Neogen Corp. and Fort Dodge Animal Health will hold a series of equine disease forums.

The forums will cover equine botulism and other preventable equine diseases, notably equine herpesvirus, eastern equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile virus.

Speakers will include Dr. Amanda House of the University of Florida; Dr. Bonnie Barr of Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington and Dr. Kim Kauffman of Fort Dodge. Neogen is sponsoring Dr. Barr.

"Forums such as these are terrific ways for veterinarians and horse owners to connect on the topic of equine disease prevention," said Dr. Jennifer Newman, Neogen's technical services veterinarian. "Educating horse owners and caregivers on disease pathology as well as preventive measures has a positive trickle-down effect on the overall health and well-being of the equine population. The veterinarian and horse owner working together can prevent undesirable outcomes."

The forums, scheduled from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and including a light meal, will be held in extension offices in Jacksonville (March 2), West Palm Beach (March 3), Orlando (March 4) and Ocala (March 5).

Registration is \$15 and space is limited. To register or for more information, contact Kelly Ketron at 800-525-2022, ext. 248 or kketron@neogen.com or visit www.vetmed.ufl.edu/extension/equine/.