

Editor: TIM NUTTALL

BSC BVSC CERTVD CBIOL MIBIOL MRCVS

LECTURER IN VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL,
CROWN STREET, LIVERPOOL, L7 7EX.

TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 151 794 4297 • FACSIMILE: +44 (0) 151 794 4304 • EMAIL: TIMN@LIV.AC.UK

EDITORIAL

Apologies

On behalf of the team behind the ESVD Bulletin, I must apologise for the late delivery of the autumn edition. This was caused by delays in receiving reports and other material from the ESVD-ECVD congress in Copenhagen and subsequent delays in formatting and printing before the bulletin could be mailed out. This meant that some members received their bulletin and faxback form for the Novartis sponsored ACVD Atopic Dermatitis Task Force Report very close to the deadline. If you have access, copies can be downloaded from <http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/5/0/3/3/1/9/>. Waiting for reports from congress will inevitably take time. With a late September congress this makes it difficult to get the bulletin out before Christmas under the current arrangements. We are looking at some options to try and speed up the process.

In the same bulletin, I also managed to inconvenience the two Masons, Ken and Ian. In the autumn editorial I reported that Ian Mason discussed including biographical and historical information in *Veterinary Dermatology*. It was of course Ken Mason who raised this issue. Again, apologies to all concerned.

Trouble always comes in threes. It was recently agreed that the bulletin would carry the names of the successful candidates in the part 1 and 2 ECVD diploma exams. Unfortunately, the list of names was inadvertently left out of the autumn bulletin. I have therefore included it in this bulletin – apologies and congratulations all round.

Congress 2002

This year the ESVD-ECVD congress takes place in Nice from 26-28th September. The congress organizers cite the excellent scientific programme, the continuing education lectures and the wonderful location as reasons for attending. I leave to the reader to rank these in importance. All I will say is that my wife has given me strict instructions which of the partner's trips must be booked!

The congress committee has put a great deal of hard work into organizing this meeting and attracting high quality speakers. The scientific programme concentrates on the biology of the hair follicle, the dermo-epidermal junction, pigmentation, dermatopathology and comparative dermatology. The clinical stream is even more varied, and includes oncology, feline dermatology, alopecia and small mammals. The ESVD AGM will be held at 16.30 on Friday 27th September.

Please note that the cut-off for early, cut-price registration is the 1st July. Numbers are limited and places must be registered in advance using the registration form in the final announcement (included with the last bulletin) or by contacting Voyages C. Mathez:

Tel. - + 33 493 82 68 82
Fax. - + 33 493 87 93 60
email - congres@matheztravel.com
web - www.matheztravel.com

Congress information can also be found on the ESVD website (www.esvd.org).

Satellite meetings

ISVD – the ISVD meeting is on Wednesday 25th September at the Hotel Novotel, 8-10 Parvis de l'Europe, Nice. This is the first time an ISVD congress will be held in Europe and having Maja Suter and Bob Dunstan on the same programme promises a high quality meeting. Places can be booked with registration for the main congress or through the ISVD website (<http://www.vetcutis.freemove.co.uk/vetcutis.freemove.co.uk/>).

Residents' day – the traditional ESVD residents' day is also on Wednesday 25th September at the Acropolis Convention Center, Nice. These are an excellent blend of high calibre scientific sessions, practical advice and an opportunity to present your own work in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. They are also great craic (ask your Celtic friends!). Further details from Ersilia Pappalardo at ersiliap@hotmail.com.

Call for future congress hosts

No venues have been arranged for the ESVD-ECVD meetings in 2006 and 2007. The ESVD are therefore issuing a call for potential hosts. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to host and organise an annual congress, please get in touch with the ESVD board.

ECVD Diploma

Details of the route to the 2004 examination for full diplomate status of the ECVD are included with this bulletin. Please note that the deadline for applications is the 30th September 2003.

The ECVD board would also like to remind candidates that passing the Part 1 Diploma does not allow them to include any letters to that effect among their professional qualifications.

Change of address

The new ESVD membership secretary is Pamela Silkstone. Her address is:

Abbey Veterinary Services,
89 Queen Street,
Newton Abbot,
Devon,
TQ12 2BG,
UK.

Email - esvdsecretary@esvd.org

Communicating by email is the quickest and cheapest way for everyone to communicate. Please could you let Pamela know your email address and any changes as soon as possible.

Membership fees

There is an ongoing problem with non or late payment of membership fees. This creates extra work for the membership secretary and treasurer, as well as costing us money. It was, therefore, decided at the AGM last year that members who do not pay their fees by the 1st January will no longer receive Veterinary Dermatology. There are still some members who have not paid their membership fees for 2001. If you wish to cancel your membership, please let the ESVD secretary know. Otherwise, access to Veterinary Dermatology will be restored on payment of fees.

ESVD board

Several members have asked me who is on the ESVD board, what jobs they do and how to get in touch with them. The current ESVD board is as follows:

- **President** - Dr. Margreet Vroom, Oisterwijk, The Netherlands (president@esvd.org).
- **Past-president** - Dr. Dominique Heripret, Arcueil, France (past-president@esvd.org).
- **Secretary** - Dr. Aiden Foster, Bristol, UK (secretary@esvd.org).
- **Treasurer** - Mr. Trevor Whitbread, Newton Abbott, UK (treasurer@esvd.org).
- **Publications and ESVD grants** - Dr. Chiara Noli, Milan, Italy (publications-grants@esvd.org).
- **Further Education and Meetings Secretary** - Dr. Zeineb Alhaidari, Roquefort-les-pins, France (education-meetings@esvd.org).

This information is also available on the website – www.esvd.org. Please note that the ESVD board and ECVD board are completely separate bodies.

Euro debate

After shadowing most European currencies for that last few years, the Euro has finally arrived and is a tangible reality. The Annual Congress may be the first opportunity for some Brits, Danes and Swedes to handle the new notes and coins. However, some caution may be necessary, as this report from the not normally euro-sceptic British Journal of Dermatology describes:

Aberer, W. & Kranke, B. (2002) The new EURO releases nickel and elicits contact eczema. *British Journal of Dermatology* 146, 155-6.

And finally...

The ESVD Bulletin welcomes any items, news and views from members. Please send anything of interest to the Editor at the address above. Please also take the time to visit our website – www.esvd.org

European College of Veterinary Dermatology

Alternate Route Part One Examination: 2004

Notification is hereby given that the seventh examination for the alternate route Part I examination will be in the year 2004.

In order to apply to take the examination, candidates must have:

- 1) Full membership of the ESVD
- 2) Attended a minimum of 140 hours of courses on veterinary dermatology accredited by the ECVD, which currently include the courses organised by the ESVD, the EASVS and those for the French Dermatology Certificate.
- 3) Attended a minimum of 3 Annual Meetings of the ESVD, or international/national dermatology meetings of equivalent status.

A fee will be charged for consideration of an applicant's credentials. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved. An additional fee will be subsequently charged to sit the examination.

Requests for further information about the examination should, depending on the information required, be directed to the following:

- Dr Chiara Noli, Chairman ECVD Education Committee: matters regarding accreditation of courses (e-mail: pinoli@iol.it);
- Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Credentials Committee: matters regarding the credentials process (e-mail: cerundolo@vet.upenn.edu);
- Dr Alessandra Fondati, Chairman ECVD Part I Diploma Examination Committee: matters regarding the examination (e-mail: afondati@quiro.uab.es).

All applications must be received on the official application form (available from the Chairman of the Credential Committee) together with the application fee and the casebook (the candidate should contact Dr. C. Noli for information regarding the casebook preparation and examination guidelines). Completed application forms should be sent to Dr. R. Cerundolo (Dept. of Clinical Studies, The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, VHUP 3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010, USA) and must be received

by 30th September 2003. Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2003.

Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Credentials Committee

European College of Veterinary Dermatology

Examination for Full Diplomate Status: 2004

Notification is hereby given that the seventh examination for full Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in 2004.

There are three possible routes by which to apply to sit the Diploma Examination:

- 1) By completion of an approved ECVD residency program;
- 2) Those who are internationally recognised in the field of veterinary dermatology with assessment by other means at the discretion of the credentials Committee (this will be the last chance to follow this route);
- 3) By passing the "alternate route part I examination" followed by further study. Candidates proposing to take this route should be aware that at the Annual General Meeting of the College in 1997, it was decided that dermatology certificates awarded by other bodies will not be accepted in place of the "alternate route part I examination".

A fee will be charged for considering the applicant's credentials. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved. An additional fee will be subsequently charged to sit the examination.

Requests for further information should be addressed to the following:

- Dr Chiara Noli, Chairman ECVD Education Committee: matters regarding the residency program (e-mail: pinoli@iol.it);
- Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Credentials Committee: matters regarding the credentials process (e-mail: cerundolo@vet.upenn.edu);
- Dr Petra Roozje, Chairman ECVD Diploma Examination Committee:

matters regarding the examination (petra.roozje@itpa.unibe.ch).

There is no official application form. All persons who satisfy the required criteria should, prior to submitting an application, contact Dr C. Noli for further information regarding the examination and instruction for payment of the fee for considering the credentials. All completed applications must be received by 30th September 2003 and sent to Dr. R. Cerundolo (Dept. of Clinical Studies, The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, VHUP 3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010, USA). Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2003.

Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Credentials Committee

European College of Veterinary Dermatology Examination Results 2001

Part 2 Diploma Examination

The following persons were successful in the Part 2 Diploma examination and are thus awarded Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology (DipECVD).

Dr. Silvia Auxilia (Italy)

Dr. Auxilia undertook her residency at The University of Edinburgh, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Scotland.

Dr. Didier Pin (France)

Dr. Pin undertook his residency in the private practice of Dr. Didier Carlotti in Bordeaux, France.

Dr. Christine Rivierre (France)

Dr. Rivierre undertook her residency at the University of North Carolina School of Veterinary Medicine, USA.

Part 1 Diploma Examination

The following persons were successful in the Part 1 Diploma examination of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology.

- Dr. Maurizio Colcuc (Austria)
- Dr. Bernard Mignon (Belgium)
- Dr. Ann Rios (Spain)
- Dr. Karin Taglinger (Austria)
- Dr. Astrid Thelen (Germany)

ESVD workshop on clinical pathology

The ESVD Clinical Pathology Workshop will take place in Nantes, France, from the 9th - 12th July 2002. There will be a maximum of 30 delegates. The workshop will be held in English.

The speakers will be:

Emmanuel Bensignor
Ross Bond
Patrick Bourdeau
Pascal Prélard
Eric Teske

The local organisers are:

Patrick Bourdeau
Dominique Héripret

There will be ten and a half hours of practical wet labs, during which each participant will have their own microscope to look at their own slides. A video-microscope system will also be available for teaching.

Nantes is the perfect place to visit in July. It is on the French Atlantic coast, near La Baule, one of the most famous beaches in Europe. It is only two hours from Paris by train (TGV), but also has its own international airport. Nantes is well worth visiting, with the old town, Anne de Bretagne Castle, many fish and seafood restaurants and a wonderful little white wine. Nantes Vet School is a beautiful, modern school, located in parkland near the river. We have arranged a hotel for everyone in the centre of Nantes and will organise bus transportation to the Vet School.

Registration fee: 500 euros (ESVD members), 600 euros (non members). This includes lunches and hotel transportation but not hotel accommodation.

For further information please contact Dominique Héripret:

ESVD Clinical Pathology Workshop,
Clinique Prégis,
43 Av. Aristide Briand,
F-94110 ARCUEIL,
France.

Fax: +33 (0) 149858301

email - d.heripret@infonie.fr

Programme

Wednesday 9th July	Mycology, Leishmaniasis	
09.00-09.30	Reception	
09.30-10.30	Dermatologic sampling	Ross Bond
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.30	Mycology: General presentation (sampling, culture and identification)	Patrick Bourdeau
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-15.30	<i>Malassezia</i>	Ross Bond
15.30-16.00	Leishmaniasis	Patrick Bourdeau
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	
16.30-18.30	Laboratory work:	
	1) Mycology	Ross Bond
	2) Leishmaniasis	Patrick Bourdeau
Thursday 10th July	Allergology and bacteriology	
09.00-10.30	Allergology (<i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> testing)	Pascal Prélard
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.30	Bacteriology: general presentation: sampling and interpretation	Ross Bond
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	<i>Staphylococcus intermedius</i>	Ross Bond
16.00-16.30	Coffee break	
16.30-18.30	Laboratory work: Bacteriology	Ross Bond
Friday 11th July	Parasitology and cytology	
09.00-10.30	Parasitology general review, emphasis on <i>Demodex</i> and <i>Sarcoptes</i>	Patrick Bourdeau
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.30	Laboratory work : Parasitology	Patrick Bourdeau
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	Introduction to cytology: indications, limitations, advantages, interpretation	Erik Teske
16.00-16.30	Coffee break	
16.30-18.30	Laboratory work: Tissue origin and malignancy	Erik Teske
Saturday 12th July	Cytology	
09.00-10.30	Cutaneous and subcutaneous neoplastic cytology	Erik Teske
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.30	Cytology of non neoplastic dermatoses	Emmanuel Bensignor
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	Laboratory work 1: Cutaneous and subcutaneous cytology	Erik Teske Emmanuel Bensignor
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	
16.30-18.00	Laboratory work 2: Cutaneous and subcutaneous cytology	Erik Teske Emmanuel Bensignor

Abstract watch

- **Molecular and cellular mechanisms of allergic disease.** D.H. Broide. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* 2001, 108:2: S65-S71

This article is a nice summary of the molecular details of IgE regulation and eosinophil actions, which are considered very important in the pathogenesis of allergic disease.

- **The causes of the increasing prevalence of allergy; is atopy a microbial deprivation disorder?** O. Strannegard and L.L. Strannegard. *Allergy* 2001, 56: 91-102.

This is one of the best reviews of the hygiene theory I have read the last couple of years. This theory has dramatically changed our concept of the pathogenesis of human atopic disease. The article is well balanced, presents a wealth of data and is a must for all people with interest in atopic disease.

- **Granules of human eosinophilic leucocytes and their mobilization.** A. Egesten *et al.* *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 2001, 31: 1173-1188.

An article almost exclusively for people with a big interest in basic science, it gives a nice summary of what is known about eosinophil development with a lot of details about eosinophilic granules and their contents, as well as cell surface receptors. Heavy reading, but particularly suited for residents in dermatology or veterinary dermatologists working in this area.

- **Melatonin and beta-endorphin changes in children sensitized to olive and grass pollen after treatment with specific immunotherapy.** F. Giron-Caro *et al.* *International Archives of Allergy and Immunology* 2001, 126: 91-96.

This article provides some interesting insights in the actions of melatonin, although the discussion is often a little nonspecific. It also provides good further references for melatonin-enthusiasts.

- **Pemphigus - An unfolding story.** S. Grandó *et al.* *The Society for Investigative Dermatology* 2001, 117 (4): 990-995.

This letter to the editor disputes the common belief about the involvement of desmoglein antibodies in the pathogenesis of pemphigus in humans, provides food for thought but is severely disputed itself by a pretty sharp reply letter pointing out that a vast majority of publications support the pathogenic role of pemphigus antibodies.

- **Can immunoregulatory lactic acid bacteria be used as dietary supplements to limit allergies.** M.L. Cross, H.S. Gill. *International Archives of Allergy and Immunology* 2001;125:112-119.

This paper summarises the possible and demonstrated effects of bacterial gut flora on priming and influencing the immune system in general, paying particular attention to allergies. Prevention of the development of allergies and therapeutic intervention are a topic of recent research in human medicine and future studies may demonstrate implications for our approach in veterinary medicine.

These abstracts are kindly provided by Ralf Mueller, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA.

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ESVD)

- Article I - Membership**
 Section 1 Application for membership shall be made on the official application form.
 Acceptance of full membership shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the annual meeting of the Society.
 Section 2 Membership may be terminated by the Executive Board for the following reasons: Any member who has been dropped from membership by the national veterinary medical association for violation of the code of ethics; any member who has not paid dues following one annual billing and one reminder by the Treasurer.
 Section 3 Unchanged.
- Article II - Elections**
 Section 1 Unchanged.
 Section 2 Unchanged.
 Section 3 Candidates for election to the Board must be fluent in English, the official language of the Society, and should have been full members for at least two years before nomination and should be resident in Europe.
 Section 4 Elections will be for the position of President and/or Board Member - five persons in all. After election the Board will elect the different officers, except the President, from amongst its members.
- Article III - Duties of Officers**
 Section 1 The President shall preside at all meetings; shall serve as chairman of the Executive Board; shall appoint all committees except the editorial committee; and at the conclusion of his term of office shall serve as a member of the Executive Board for three (3) additional years.
 Section 2 Unchanged.
 Section 3 Unchanged.
 Section 4 Unchanged.
 Section 5 Unchanged.
- Article IV - Duties of the Executive Board**
 Section 1 Unchanged.
 Section 2 Unchanged.
- Article V - Meetings**
 Section 1 Unchanged.
 Section 2 Unchanged.
- Article VI - Membership Certificate**
 Deleted.
- Article VI - Dues**
 Section 1 Unchanged.
 Section 2 Notice of annual dues shall be mailed in October by the treasurer and will be overdue two months later.
- Article VII - Annual Report of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology**
 Section 1 Unchanged.
 Section 2 Unchanged.
 Section 3 The Annual Report shall be sent free to all members, associate members, affiliate members, honorary members and life members.
 Section 4 The Annual Report shall contain:
 Report of the board's activities.
 Minutes of the last AGM.
 List of members.
 Agenda for the next AGM.
 Any other material of interest and value to the field of veterinary or comparative dermatology.
- Article VIII - Amendments**
 Unchanged.

ESVD Workshop on Exotic Animal Dermatology

- Utrecht, The Netherlands, 21st – 23rd November 2002 – Please note that these dates have changed since the last bulletin announcement.
- Maximum attendants – 40
- Registration fee – 400Euro for ESVD members

Speakers:

- Neil Forbes
- Haenen Werkman
- Sharon Redrobe
- Nico Schoemaker
- Steven Divers

Local organisers:

Nico Schoemaker - N.J.Schoemaker@vet.uu.nl
Jacqueline Sinke

Programme:

Thursday 21st

08.30 - 12.30	Registration	
13.30 - 14.00	Welcome and introduction	JS/NS
14.00 - 15.00	Avian anatomy and physiology	NF
15.00 - 15.30	Tea break	
15.30 - 16.30	Hyperadrenocorticism in ferrets	NS
16.30 - 17.30	Feather picking and non infectious dermatological conditions in birds	NF

Friday 22nd

08.30 - 10.15	Infectious dermatological conditions and sample techniques in birds	NF
10.15 - 10.45	Coffee break	
10.45 - 12.30	Dermatological conditions and sample techniques in small mammals	SR
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch and transport to wetlabs	
13.30 - 15.00	Avian handling techniques and anaesthesia	NF
	Small mammal handling techniques and anaesthesia	SR
15.00 - 15.30	Tea break	
15.30 - 17.30	Small mammal handling techniques and anaesthesia	SR
	Avian handling techniques and anaesthesia	NF

Saturday 23rd

08.30 - 10.15	Dermatological conditions and sample techniques in reptiles	SD
10.15 - 10.45	Coffee break	
10.45 - 12.30	Dermatological conditions and ectoparasites in fish	HW
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch and transport to wetlabs	
13.30 - 15.00	Reptile handling techniques and anaesthesia	SD
	Fish anaesthesia and sample collection	HW
15.00 - 15.30	Tea break	
15.30 - 17.30	Fish anaesthesia and sample collection	HW
	Reptile handling techniques and anaesthesia	SD

Future ESVD Workshops

2003

- Canine Dermatology (with practicals); Copenhagen, Denmark

Speakers

- To be confirmed
- Flemming Kristensen

Local organiser

Maximum 24 participants

6th – 9th November

2003

- Therapeutics (no practicals); Cremona, Italy
- Craig Griffin (USA) and Manfred Kietzmann (Germany)
- Chiam Noli, Fabia Scarampella and Ersilia Pappalardo

Speakers

Local organiser

Maximum 50 participants

2004 (February or March)

Speakers from the INSERM 346 research unit/Pr. D. Schmitt

Local organiser

Maximum 40 participants

- Skin biology (no practicals); Lyon, France

- Zeineb Alhaidari

Further information is available from the ESVD Further Education and Meetings Secretary:

Dr. Zeineb Alhaidari, Clinique Vétérinaire, RN 85, 06330 Roquefort-les-pins, CIDEX 248, France.

email: education-meetings@esvd.org

ESAVS Course

The dermatology I course will be held from 30th July to 9th August 2002 in Vienna, Austria. The course will cover skin biology in domestic animals, the pathogenesis of skin disease, diagnostic procedures, basic histopathology and the clinical features of significant skin diseases in companion animal and farm species.

The course will be taught by Richard Halliwell, David Lloyd, Ross Bond and David Gr from the UK, Otto-Wolfgang Fischer from Austria and Craig Griffin from the USA.

The tuition fee is Euro 1700. Further details from the ESAVS office, Schadtengrass 2, D-55765, Birkenfeld, Germany; Tel. - (49) 6782-2329; Fax. - (49) 6782-4314; email - info@esavs.net web - www.esavs.net

ESVD grant report

The ESVD wishes to encourage high standards in all aspects of veterinary dermatology and to promote the development of related research. To further this, an annual research grant of 5,000 Euro is awarded by the ESVD for basic or clinical research in veterinary dermatology.

The winners of the 2000 award were Alessandra Fondati, Dolores Fondevila and Luis Ferrer with a proposal to investigate the role of eosinophils in feline skin disease. Some results from their work were presented at the 2001 Annual Congress in Copenhagen.

New ultrastructural findings of feline eosinophils

A. Fondati, D. Fondevila & L. Ferrer.

Introduction

Despite the importance of eosinophilic skin diseases in cats, in depth studies on the ultrastructure of feline eosinophils have not been previously reported and little is known about eosinophil biology in this species. The purpose of this study was to examine the ultrastructural morphology of feline eosinophils and compare the findings with those from man and other species.

Materials and methods

Buffy coats (BCs) of five adult cats, with eosinophil counts ranging from 600 to 3.741 eosinophils per ml, were obtained by centrifugation and fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1M cacodylate buffer (pH 7.2). Pellets were pre-embedded in 2% liquid agar, post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide, dehydrated, Spurr resin embedded, ultra-sectioned, stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and examined on a Hitachi 7000 transmission electron microscope. From one cat BCs were collected by both blood centrifugation and by blood sedimentation. Two BCs were post-fixed both in 1% osmium tetroxide and 1% osmium-1.5% potassium ferrocyanide.

Results

Eosinophil diameter ranged from 5.8 - 8.16µm. Bi-lobed nuclei were common but no nucleoli were observed. Vesiculotubular organelles and elongated membrane-bound secondary granules with layered electron dense cores and less dense matrix were observed. The cores were located peripherally and varied in density, number, shape and size. Secondary granules ranged from 6 to 40/cell and measured up to 1.98µm in length and up to 750nm in diameter. Morphological changes of piecemeal degranulation, uropods, increased number of glycogen particles, increased number of tubules in granule-poor cytoplasm, and numerous mitochondria and smooth endoplasmic reticulum structures were observed. No morphological differences were detected in the BCs collected by blood centrifugation and sedimentation. Glycogen particles were visible in samples post-fixed in 1% osmium-1.5% potassium ferrocyanide.

Conclusions

Ultrastructure of feline eosinophils is similar to that reported in man and other species. Circulating eosinophils in cats may show morphological changes typical of activation analogous to those described in humans with eosinophilia secondary to a variety of underlying diseases.

References

- Dvorak, A.M. *et al.* - *Chem Immunol* 76: 1-28, 2000.
Karawajczyk, M. *et al.* - *Am J Resp Cell Mol Biol* 23: 521-529, 2000.

ESVD Equine Workshop

Gimo, Sweden, 21st - 23rd of March 2002

Gimo Herrgard in Northern Sweden provided the historic setting for the Workshop in Equine Dermatology this Spring. With a beautiful view over the snow-white countryside, 40 participants from Israel, USA and Europe were taught the essence of equine dermatology by Janet Littlewood and Stephen White, who once more proved to be excellent speakers.

Common and rare diseases covering allergies, infections and neoplasia among others were presented during three lively, inspiring and very educational days. As most of the audience largely deal with small animal cases, the description of a horse as 'a large cat' made things even more clear.

One afternoon was free. A large group of people tried the "Tölt" gait on the back of Icelandic horses. The historic and beautiful town of Uppsala was also visited. Another group challenged their Viking-genes by a dip in the ice-covered lake of Gimo, followed by a longer stay in the sauna.

A large bouquet of roses to Kerstin Bergvall who did an excellent job as organizer of this workshop. Thank you to the speakers for their fine work. Also, a big thank you to Bayer and Schering-Plough Animal Health for their sponsorship.

Sebastian Schleifer
Utrecht University
The Netherlands

Lene Boysen
The Royal Veterinary and
Agricultural University
Denmark

5th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology

August 25th – 28th 2004
Vienna – Austria

The 5th World Congress on Veterinary Dermatology is now being prepared. The plans include:

- Pre-Congress symposia will be held in the Congress Hotels.
- The Congress will have five main themes with state-of-the-art presentations and supporting papers presenting the latest information on:
 - ✓ Immunology: focus on atopy
 - ✓ Therapy: focus on immunomodulatory drugs
 - ✓ Infectious & parasitic dermatoses: focus on mycobacteria
 - ✓ Skin biology: focus on wound healing
 - ✓ Nutrition: focus on antioxidants & free radicals
- Clinical emphasis will be concentrated on diagnostic methods and therapy.
- Some 15 workshops will enable new techniques and therapies to be discussed in detail.
- An integrated programme of lectures for veterinary nurses and technicians.
- There will be a wide-ranging two-level Continuing Education programme.
- Late August is one of the nicest periods of the year in Vienna.
- The magnificent imperial Hofburg Conference Centre will be dedicated to the meeting. Its central location, high ceilings and multitude of varied conference and social activity rooms make it ideal for an international meeting.
- A full social programme with a special Viennese flavour is planned. This will include:
 - ✓ the Welcome Reception at the **Rathaus**,
 - ✓ the Opening Ceremony in the **Hofburg**,
 - ✓ the Austrian Evening in the historic **Technical Museum** on the first full congress day,
 - ✓ the world famous **Spanish Riding School** performance on the second day and
 - ✓ the Gala Dinner at the magnificent **Schönbrunn Palace** on the last evening.

Visit the website at: www.VetDermVienna.com for further information.

Web-watch

<http://www.vetagenda.com>

I have mentioned this site in previous bulletins, but make an apologies for repetition. It really is an excellent source of information and links about veterinary meetings throughout the world and is hosted in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish). It is also available to WAP phone users.

<http://www.vetcontact.com>

Vetcontact is a similar site and like Vetagenda is powered by the European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS – www.esavs.net). As well as links to Vetagenda and ESAVS, it has news pages, online presentations, posters, classified advertisements, a search engine, a forum for discussion and a host of links to related sites. Well worth a visit.

<http://bodd.cf.ac.uk>

The Botanical Dermatology Database is a site I came across whilst compiling a pollen panel. For anyone interested in the medical aspects of botany it is fascinating. The data can be accessed using a search engine, by plant family, or by particular topics. The coverage is a little patchy in places, however, as the site is still under development.

<http://pewwww.liv.ac.uk/~timm>

This is a site I manage for the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group (sorry for the appalling URL!). It contains some information about the group, post-graduate dermatology qualifications, dermatology meetings and links to a range of other sites.

<http://www.vetcutis.freemove.co.uk/vetcutis.freemove.co.uk/>

Another site with a poor URL – this is actually the home page of the International Society for Veterinary Dermatopathology. Apart from the URL, this is a nicely designed site, which describes the society, its aims, constitution and meetings. Presentations from past meetings can be downloaded in word format.

<http://www.esvd.org>

Last, but not least, our own home site. The pages have undergone a recent review and are well worth visiting. There is a new look and feel to the whole site, which is much more user friendly. It also has a wealth of information about the ESVD, grant applications, publications, courses and meetings, together with links to related sites.

I hope you find these sites interesting and useful. Please let me know if you come across any other interesting sites out there in cyberspace. I am particularly keen to publicise home sites of veterinary dermatology groups.

Tim Nuttall
email – timm@liv.ac.uk

Note from Treasurer

As you know, we have tried this year to receive all membership dues before the beginning of January. The reason for this was to prevent loss of funds from Veterinary Dermatology's that went out to members who were not subsequently going to pay their dues for the year and, with an increase in the number of issues of Veterinary Dermatology, this is a potentially significant loss.

Some of you will not have received the first issue and this is probably because you either have not paid or did not pay in time and therefore were not put on the circulation list that Blackwell has. As already indicated on the letter that I sent calling for subscription renewal, those that pay late will be added to the circulation list in June each year and at that time they would receive the back issues that they have not received early on in the year.

I do appreciate that this may seem draconian to some, but there is no reason why payment cannot be made early and failure to do so costs every member money. If we are to keep membership fees at the current level, in spite of increasing the number of issues of Veterinary Dermatology (for which we pay), then getting membership fees in by the beginning of January is essential. We tried physical means of doing this last year by putting a surcharge on late payment but this did not seem to have any effect on the number of members who paid late.

Other problems with payment include incorrect visa card numbers and also the use of American Express cards, which we do not deal with. If you have not yet received your Veterinary Dermatology and you know you did not get your subscription in before the beginning of January it will arrive in June/July along with back issues. If you think you did get your subscription in on time and did not use American Express, then please contact me.

Trevor Whitbread
ESVD Treasurer, Abbey Veterinary Services, 89 Queen Street, Devon, TQ12 2BG, UK. Tel. +44 1626 353598 Email - abbeyvet@eclipse.co.uk