

British Veterinary Camelid Society

Annual meeting 2008

16 - 19 October, Elfordleigh Hotel, Plymouth

Guest speaker: Dr William Vivanco, Peruvian National Institute of Agricultural Research



Interest in alpacas is very high in the West Country, so the 2008 BVCS conference will be held in Plymouth, from 16 to 19 October. Practical sessions will be kindly hosted by Popham Alpacas, just over the border in Cornwall.

The conference will be the usual mixture of specialist presentations, practitioner case studies, reports from the International Camelid Health Conference, hands-on practical sessions and lively debates as well as social interaction and networking.

Our guest speaker is **Dr William Vivanco**, head of genetic resources and biotechnology at the Peruvian National Institute of Agricultural Research in Lima. He is a leader in the development of new techniques such as embryo technology, and he has much to share with us, including the latest advances in selective breeding for colour, a goal of many of the alpaca owners in the UK.

As usual, there will be space in the programme for plenty of debate and for presentations from members, as an important part of the weekend is the sharing of our own experiences.

If you have a case or research findings you want to present, let the secretary (secretary@camelidvets.org) know as soon as possible. We will also look at a range of current hot topics, including bluetongue and the continuing debate about TB.

The **British Camelids Trust** (BCT), the charitable body set up by the camelid owners' organisations in the UK, continues to support the work of the BVCS in a number of ways. One of these is to fund the attendance by a BVCS member to the annual International Camelid Health Conference in the USA.

This year **Peter Aitken** was the recipient of the bursary. BVCS member **Karin Mueller** also attended. Together they will present a number of sessions based on their experiences at this major symposium.

BCT has also contributed towards the cost of bringing Dr Vivanco to the UK for our conference this year.

Practical sessions are a vital part of the annual conference. This year, as usual, there will be two on-farm sessions at nearby **Popham Alpacas** (www.pophamalpacas.co.uk).



The first of these, on Thursday afternoon, is particularly aimed at those who may be relatively new to camelid care and/or to the society and its conference, and covers general welfare and handling issues. It is a very popular session with regular conference attendees, too. This standalone workshop is not included in the main conference fee but is available for a very modest additional fee.

On Saturday afternoon we will return to Popham Alpacas for a second practical session, led by Dr Vivanco, but also taking advantage of the experience and knowledge of the farm's owners.

Those who have attended previous BVCS conferences will know that we aim to share knowledge in an informal atmosphere. Whether you are an experienced camelid practitioner or have yet to meet a llama or alpaca, you will be most welcome and will find this an excellent opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience.

Because the meeting is organised by the society as a non-profit making venture, the conference also represents remarkably good CPD value: certificates will be issued.

Our venue this year is the **Elfordleigh Hotel** (www.elfordleigh.co.uk) in Plympton, near Plymouth in Devon. The hotel has a well-equipped spa and a golf course which is open to all residents. While we cannot promise that delegates will have a lot of spare time over the weekend, residents - and particularly non-delegates - might like to take advantage of the complimentary facilities in the Oasis Leisure Centre, including a pool, spa, sauna, steam room and gym. If you feel the need for any of the beauty treatments, book well in advance through the hotel's website.

The hotel is just a couple of minutes from the A38, the main road through Devon and Cornwall which extends the M5.

Those in the midlands and north of the country who fear that Plymouth may be a long trek by road should consider the flights of **Air Southwest** (www.airsouthwest.co.uk) to Plymouth airport. Air Southwest also has a frequent service to Plymouth from London Gatwick.

Plymouth is also well served by **Cross Country Trains** (www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk) from the midlands and north, and by **First Great Western** (www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk) trains from London.

If you plan on travelling by train or plane, we intend to finish this year's conference after lunch on Sunday, so you can make reservations for mid afternoon departures.

The society's annual dinner will take place in the conference hotel on Saturday night. Non-resident delegates are invited to join us for the BVCS dinner, or indeed for dinner on Thursday or Friday. Please note which meals you want to book on the attached form.

To encourage members to book early for this event we offer a valuable discount if you book before the end of July. As the conference administration is a labour of love by the secretary please make life a little easier for her and save a chunk of your CPD budget by taking advantage of the **early bird rates**.

Note that the annual conference is open only to members of BVCS. Non-members are, of course, invited to join the society at the remarkably good value subscription of just £20 a year, which includes a copy of the year's conference proceedings, plus online access to past proceedings and the lively internet discussion group. You can download an application form and direct debit mandate from www.camelidvets.org.

British Veterinary Camelid Society - 2008 conference

Please complete one form per delegate

Name (as you want it to appear on your badge)	
Practice or organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email address	
I want to attend as a residential delegate, in my own room. I understand the fee of £585 includes all meals from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch, teas and coffees, and the conference.	
I want to attend as a residential delegate, sharing a room with another delegate. I understand the fee of £475 for each delegate includes all meals from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch, teas and coffees, and the conference. I will be sharing with.....	
I want to attend as a residential delegate, sharing a room with someone who is not a delegate. I understand that the fee of £585 for the delegate includes all meals from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch, teas and coffees, and the conference; and the fee of £175 for the non-delegate includes dinner, bed and breakfast, Sunday lunch but not lunch on Friday or Saturday, nor teas and coffees. Total fee for both people £760 .	
I want to attend as a non-residential delegate. I understand that the fee of £250 includes lunches, teas and coffees as well as the conference, but not breakfast, dinners or accommodation.	
I would like to attend the pre-conference practical session at Popham Alpacas on Thursday afternoon, at an additional fee of £40 (the Saturday afternoon practical session is included in the conference fee).	
I am not a BVCS member. I have attached a membership form (from www.camelidvets.org) and subscription of £20 .	
I am a non-residential delegate, but would like to join the group for dinner on Thursday, Friday or Saturday (the society's annual dinner). Cost is £27.50 per dinner - please indicate which dinner(s) you want to add.	
Total conference fee enclosed, in a cheque made payable to BVCS. Note: for bookings confirmed by 31 July 2008 resident delegates can claim an early bird discount of £50 per person, and non-resident delegates can claim £40 .	
Any special requests (eg vegetarian meals)	
I would like to present a paper or case study on	

Please send your completed form, with a cheque for full payment, to:
BVCS, Foxes Grove, Punnetts Town, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 9PE