



**PRESS RELEASE**

15 September 2008

**EQUINE RESEARCH RECOGNISED IN 'THESIS OF  
THE YEAR' AWARD SHORTLIST**

The shortlist for the 2008 Eqvalan® Duo Equine Thesis of the Year Award has been announced today [Monday 15 September 2008], representing the very best in equine related projects taking place in universities and colleges throughout the UK.

Now in its tenth year, the award, sponsored by Merial Animal Health, is made by the Royal Agricultural Society of England each year to recognise outstanding academic achievement in the equestrian field and to showcase the best academic research to the equestrian industry.

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, Chairman of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, comments: "The horse is taking an ever-more important role in rural Britain - as a leisure pursuit for many hundreds of thousands of people, in sport and for landowners who are diversifying their businesses by moving into livery and other horse related activities. This award is a great way of giving recognition to the future thought-leaders in the sector and we hope it also encourages other academic institutions and their students to continue in their valuable work."

The five shortlisted theses are:

- Laura Corbin, **Warwickshire College**: 'Foot balance and lameness in riding school horses'
- Carol Quish, **University of Limerick**: 'Irish Point-to-Point Racing: A Critical Review 2000 - 2007'
- Alexine Sevac, **Hartpury College**: 'The establishment of evidence-based guidelines for the reduction of the equine canine tooth'
- Holly Wakefield, **Harper Adams University College**: 'A Comparison of the Cryoprotective Effect of different types of Avian Egg Yolk in Stallion Semen Freezing Media on *In Vitro* Post-Thaw Sperm Quality'
- Charlotte White, **Nottingham Trent University**: 'An investigation into the Occlusal Secondary Dentine Thickness in Horses of different ages'

Shortlisted students will now have to defend their thesis to a panel of judges, including the editor of Horse & Rider magazine Alison Bridge, and the 2006 winner Rachel Kay. The winner, to be announced during Your Horse Live on Friday 7th November, will receive a cash prize, trophy and membership to the Royal Agricultural Society. They will also have the opportunity to present their thesis to the National Equine Forum in March.

Final day judge Dr Emma Batson from Merial Animal Health says: "This year sees Eqvalan® marking 25 years of innovation at its best. Eqvalan was the result of years of research & development (R&D), and launched in 1983 this 'revolutionary' product marked a huge leap forward in equine worming. Twenty five years on it is still a leader in its field!

"R&D is key to our business so it's very satisfying to see that the innovative spirit remains strong within the UK's academic institutions. The quality of entrants this year has been excellent and there is some very valuable work taking place that deserves a great deal of respect and recognition.

"We're looking forward to meeting the finalists, but I'm sure it's going to be a challenge to select an overall winner!"

**--ENDS--**

#### Notes to Editors:-

1. Press release issued by Julie Bublaitis, Marketing Assistant, Royal Agricultural Society of England  
Tel No: 02476 858 217      Email: [julieb@rase.org.uk](mailto:julieb@rase.org.uk)
2. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, play a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science, the promotion of best practice. [www.rase.org.uk](http://www.rase.org.uk)
3. Merial is the world's leading and most successful animal health company producing a wide range of pharmaceuticals and vaccines to keep livestock and pets healthy and productive.

An innovation-driven leader, Merial has the largest research & development investment in the animal health industry with seventeen research and development centres around the world. Merial is committed to developing pharmaceuticals and vaccines with the highest level of quality, safety and efficacy through an extensive network of sixteen manufacturing sites globally.

Headquartered in the UK, with operations based in the US, France, Latin America and Asia, Merial employs approximately 6,500 people, operates in more than 150 countries and generates sales in excess of 1.7 billion Euros. [www.merial.com](http://www.merial.com)