

WORLD AND EUROPEAN VETERINARY DENTAL EVENTS UNITED IN PRAGUE

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Categories : [Vets](#)

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SAM LUIS HOLE reports on a congress first in veterinary dentistry, where delegates attended presentations and saw the launch of a specialisation in the equine field

THE combination of the 22nd European Congress of Veterinary Dentistry and 12th World Veterinary Dental Congress, held together in Prague, Czech Republic, gave delegates the unique opportunity to hear a broad range of lectures on many aspects of veterinary dentistry, by 48 speakers from around the world.

It was the first combined congress of these two associations and was attended by 405 delegates from 34 countries. The event featured four parallel streams, with more than 100 presentations, including satellite symposia, plenary lectures, debates, clinical cases and poster presentations.

The congress was held over four days, with practical workshops run before and after the main two-day congress programme. It was held under the auspices of the European Veterinary Dental Society (EVDS), and in collaboration with the European Veterinary Dental College (EVDC) and Czech Veterinary Dental Society.

The exhibition, lectures and accommodation were all held under the same roof at the fourstar Clarion Congress Hotel, which has a sky walk-way to an adjacent shopping and leisure complex ([Figure 1](#)).

The city

Prague is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic. It is the 14th largest city in the EU and the historic capital of Bohemia. Situated on the Vltava river, the city and its suburban area is home to about two million people and boasts one of the best public transportation systems in Europe, making getting around town simple for delegates. Prague is home to a number of famous cultural attractions, many of which survived both the First and Second World Wars. These include Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square ([Figure 2](#)), the Jewish Quarter, Lennon Wall, and Petřín hill.

Organised by the EVDC, the pre-congress practical workshop day was held at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and was supported by Accesia, Acteon, Aribex, Duerr Medical and Kruuse. The day had practical workshops covering surgical extractions, access for veterinary endodontics, pulpotomy and restorative techniques, palate surgery and surgical anatomy.

Two new sessions on rabbit dentistry were organised by the EVDC and the European College of Zoological Medicine. Specialists from both colleges tutored rabbit dental workshops and gave the participants greater insight into rabbit dentistry. I attended the access for veterinary endodontics and pulpotomy and restorative techniques workshops, and found them informative and stimulating, with a depth of knowledge and detail you would expect from the diplomate tutors.

The first day of congress began early with four parallel streams on oral surgery, feline dentistry, basic dentistry and small mammal dentistry. I chose to attend the oral surgery stream with presentations on “Minimally invasive techniques to repair mandibular fractures” by Loic Legendre, “Jaw fractures in puppies” by Lisa Milella from the UK, and was concluded by the world renowned Frank Verstraete, co-author of the well-received text *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Dogs and Cats*, speaking on “Internal fixation of comminuted maxillofacial fractures in dogs”.

After the designated coffee break with the provision of excellent refreshments (provided throughout congress) I walked around the wellstocked exhibition hall, which had the usual mix of drug and feed companies, stock and instrument suppliers and textbook outlets ([Figure 3](#)).

Later that day, I jumped streams into basic dentistry and listened to presentations from the wonderfully enthusiastic Brook Niemiec from California on “Dental radiology simplified”, “Treatment of malocclusions” and “Emergency dentistry” ([Figure 4](#)). All were massively entertaining, with clinically relevant information you could take back into practice.

Other presentations in the stream included “Treatment of selected orthodontic cases” by Chris Visser, also from the US ([Figure 5](#)), and “Impression materials: an overview” by Rachel Perry from the UK ([Figure 6](#)).

Socialising

The congress, of course, also had an entertaining social and cultural schedule. On the Thursday evening a welcome reception, along with the opening of the congress by EVDS president Gottfried Morgenegg, Tomas Fichtel (president of the Czech Veterinary Dental Society) and Cedric Tutt (president of EVDC), welcomed the delegates and exhibitors. The evening was well attended by delegates, with locally sourced wine and cheese served ad libitum.

The gala dinner was held on the Friday evening at the Municipal House Smetana Hall. Its eye-catching art nouveau facade hinted at the grand interior. The evening, kindly sponsored by Hill's and Duerr Medical, consisted of music from a local choir and a threecourse dinner. Mr Morgenegg gave a short speech and Dr Tutt announced the new EVDC diplomates, Ana Nemeč and Florian Boutoille. The live music later animated delegates to dance and let their hair down (who knew veterinary dentists could get such a groove on?).

On the second day of congress, I attended the equine stream all day; however, small animal streams included endodontics, basic dentistry and periodontology. Paddy Dixon from the University of Edinburgh chaired the first session on equine dentistry. Presentations included a well-designed and implemented objective study on the "Influence of ketamine or midazolam in combination with a romifidine-butorphanol- constant rate infusion on sedation quality during tooth extraction in standing horses", and a review of "Infraorbital nerve block within the pterygopalatine fossa in horses – EFBI -technique", both given by Astrid Bienert-Zeit from Germany.

Carsten Staszky, the brilliant equine anatomist from the University of Giessen, then spoke about the "Equine endodontium in health and disease", with wonderful illustrations and a closer look at equine dental embryology ([Figure 7](#)). After coffee, Peter Stelzer chaired a session where Chris Pearce from the UK presented an interesting paper on "Equine infundibular restorations: longterm results of 242 restorations in 92 horses".

Manfred Stoll from Germany then described "How to stabilise mandibular fractures with pinless external fixation" ([Figure 8](#)). This was followed by Prof Dixon who presented a paper on "Swellings of the angle of the mandible in horses are not dental related – a study of 34 cases".

After a good lunch the afternoon sessions started, chaired by Dr Tutt from South Africa ([Figure 9](#)). Prof Dixon gave "An update on equine cheek teeth diastema, including a new longterm survey of 202 treated cases". Then Dr Stoll presented "Minimally invasive transbuccal surgery and screw extraction" (MTE) – a novel technique for extracting cheek teeth with a compromised or fractured crown. Mr Pearce then gave his second presentation on "Oral and surgical extraction of 224 cheek teeth: techniques and results".

The final session of the day was chaired by Alessandro de Simoi from Italy, with presentations on "Bits and bridles – how they affect the equid" by Dr Tutt, and a well-illustrated PhD presentation on "Polyodontia in donkeys" by JoaPo BrandaPo Rodrigues from Portugal ([Figure 10](#)).

Equine specialisation

Also, in the final session of the equine dentistry stream, a “Report on equine dentistry specialisation” was given by Dr Tutt and Prof Dixon. This was a much anticipated and well-received presentation, as it has been felt for an extended period that, with the many practical developments and growing body of evidencebased literature in the area of equine veterinary dentistry, it required a speciality of its own.

So it was great news to hear the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) have approved a diploma in the subspeciality of equine dentistry (DipEVDC equine).

An EVDC equine veterinary dentistry organising committee has been assembled (chaired by Prof Dixon) and has put considerable effort into creating a suitable common examination, in conjunction with the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) and the Global Equine Dental College, which will be recognised by all international bodies.

The EBVS and EVDC have very stringent residency criteria for candidates to gain entrance to sit this examination, including undertaking a structured residency programme under specialist supervision. However, these criteria will be relaxed for the first five years after creation of the speciality, and suitable candidates can sit this examination without having undergone a supervised, structured residency training programme, provided their credentials are of the required standard and they have refereed publications in the area of equine dentistry.

The organising committees of the EVDC and AVDC are due to sit the inaugural benchmark examination this month, with the first entrance examinations to be held in 2014.

Practical workshops

The post-congress practical workshops consisted of a small animal “Introduction to dentistry” – mainly aimed at recent graduates and students – and an advanced session on “Equine dentistry”, kindly sponsored by Horse Dental Equipment, Duerr Medical and Pegasos4D.

The morning equine session began with Prof Dixon lecturing on “Equine dental radiography”, which was followed by a practical session giving delegates an opportunity to use Duerr Medical’s new equine intraoral CR imaging system on cadaver heads ([Figure 11](#)).

After lunch, Prof Dixon gave a short presentation on “Cheek tooth exodontia in equines”. Dr Tutt and Prof Dixon then tutored a practical workshop on the various techniques of oral extraction of cheek teeth in cadaver specimens. The day was brought to a close with a demonstration of the MTE approach to extraction according to Dr Stoll, by Frank Schellenberger of Pegasos4D, which manufactures the instrumentation used for this technique ([Figure 12](#)).

The field of equine veterinary dentistry, including surgical and advanced dentistry, has progressed significantly over recent years. The validation by a recognised specialisation of this area of veterinary surgery, along with the inevitable further developments of techniques and production of cases control studies with medium to long-term follow up, will assist the development of equine veterinary dentistry as a science and specialisation. These advanced techniques and specialised knowledge can then be disseminated and utilised for the benefit of the horse and the progression of our profession.

Cruise congress

Next year, the 23rd European Congress of Veterinary Dentistry will be held on a cruise ship – departing from Marseilles, France – May 6-10. The event will be a great opportunity to combine world class education in veterinary dentistry with leisure time. Visit www.evds.org for details.



Figure 1. The Clarion Congress Hotel, Prague.

Photo: ANNOUNCEMENT BROCHURE ([HTTP://WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS](http://www.evds.org/prague-congress)).



Figure 10 (right). João Brandão Rodrigues spoke on polyodontia in donkeys.

Photos: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY

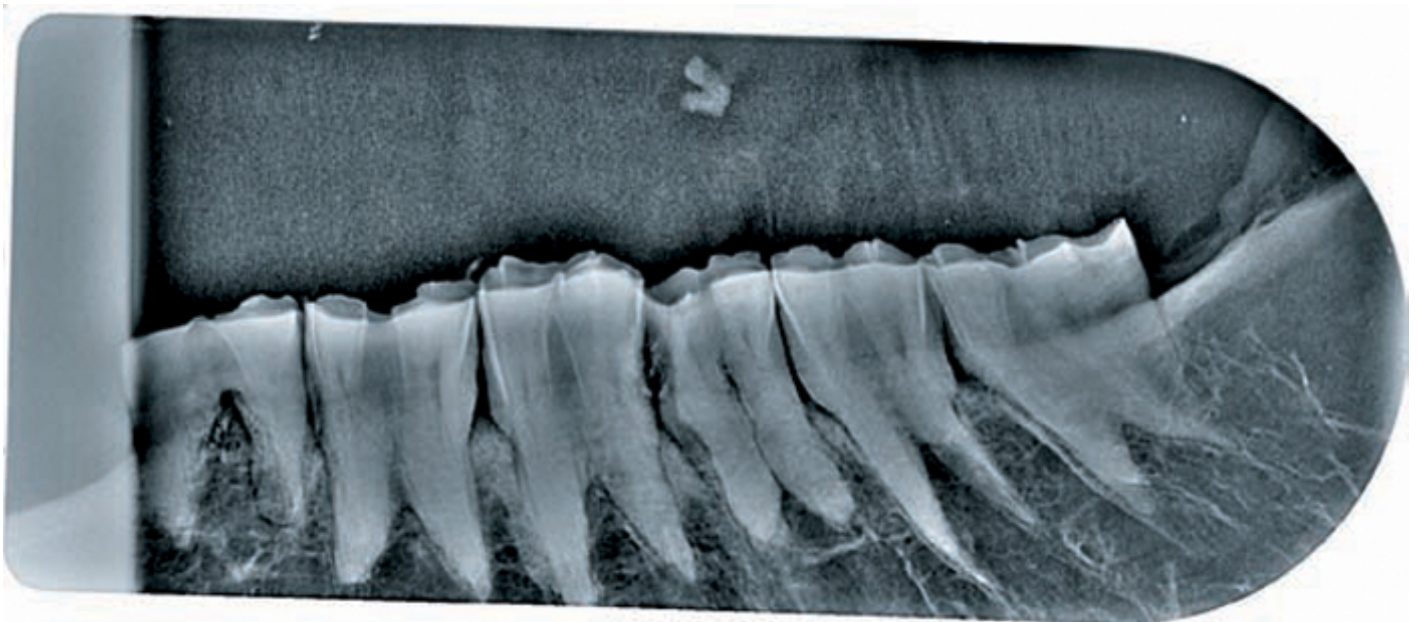


Figure 11. Duerr Medical's new equine intraoral CR imaging of mandibular cheek teeth.

Photo: WWW.DUERR-MEDICAL.DE

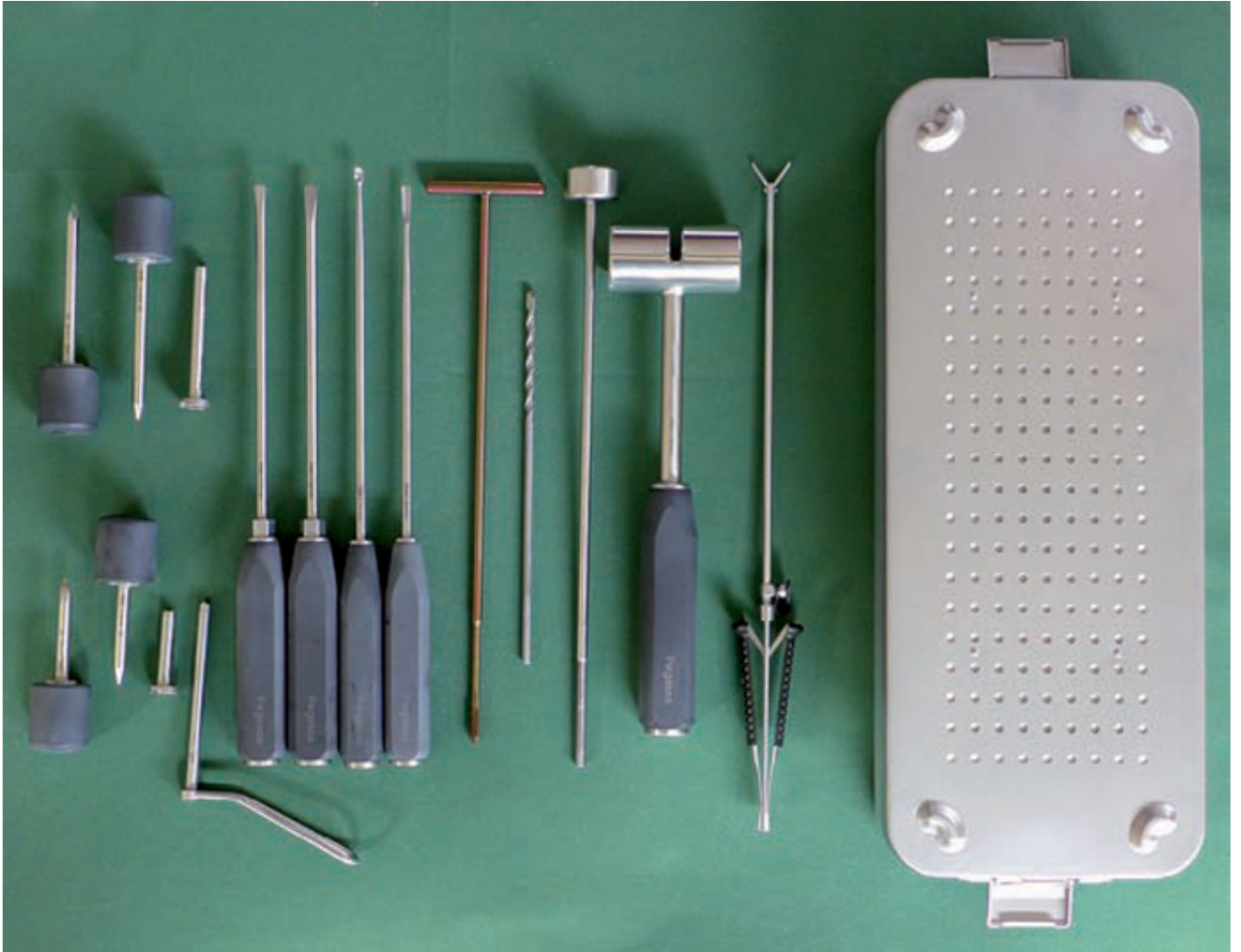


Figure 12. A minimally invasive transbuccal surgery and screw extraction kit.

Photo: WWW.PEGASOS4D.



Figure 2. The famous astro clock in Prague's Old Town Square.

Photo: ANNOUNCEMENT BROCHURE ([HTTP://WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS](http://www.evds.org/prague-congress)).



Figure 3. Exhibitors and delegates enjoy the refreshments.

Photo: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 4. Brook Niemiec lecturing to the delegates.

Photo: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 5. Chris Visser lecturing on orthodontics.

Photo: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 6. Rachel Perry discussed dental materials.

Photo: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 7. Carsten Staszyk spoke about endodontium.

Photo: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 8 (left). Manfred Stoll described “How to stabilise mandibular fractures with pinless external fixation” and his MTE technique.

Photos: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY



Figure 9 (centre). European Veterinary Dental College president Cedric Tutt.

Photos: WWW.EVDS.ORG/PRAGUE-CONGRESS-PHOTOGALLERY