

Press release February 2010



International Society for Equitation Science (ISES)

6th Annual International Conference

ISES Sweden 2010, Saturday 31 July – Monday 2 August, 2010

Conference theme

Horse welfare and human safety: importance of learning, training and education

Uppsala - a meeting place for international equine scientists

Can an understanding of learning, training and education enhance the horses' welfare and improve the riders' safety? This is a question that will be debated from different angles during the three-day International Equitation Science Conference in Uppsala, summer 2010. It is the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) that is hosting this year's annual ISES conference, attracting scientist from around the world.

The Conference will not only be relevant for equine scientists, but also other experts in horse training, behaviour and welfare are very welcome to participate to share their knowledge and engage in fruitful discussions.

The three-day Conference will be filled with academic presentations reporting recent scientific findings, plenary talks from invited keynote speakers and a full day of practical demonstrations held at the Swedish National Equestrian Centre Strömsholm (RS).

“To include practical elements during the conference days is of particular importance as this emphasises the strong link between theory and practice,” says chairman of the organizing committee Mari Zetterqvist Blokhuis. Much of the current equitation science research has direct practical applications and is highly relevant for those working in the horse industry as it provides an objective understanding of how horses learn and interact with humans and what welfare consequences these interactions may have.

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The practical programme will cover a demonstration of ongoing biomechanical research, a demonstration of how the rider's seat can affect the horse as well as presentations giving insight into the Swedish system of training horses and educating riders, presented by the National stud Flyinge and the National Equestrian Centre Strömsholm. Two of the invited keynote speakers are Dr. Andrew McLean from the Australian Equine Behaviour Centre who will lecture on the theme "Conflict theory – the missing link in equestrian culture?", and Dr. Lars Roepstorff from SLU will talk about comparative aspects on the physical capacity for training.

ISES, the International Society for Equitation Science, is a young organisation dedicated “to promote and encourage the application of objective research and advanced practice which will ultimately improve the welfare of horses in their associations with humans.”

In previous years, ISES' conferences had been held in Australia, Italy, USA and Ireland. In 2010 it is Sweden and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences who has the honor to invite to this event.

For more information about the Conference and ISES, please visit the webpage:

www.equitationsscience.com

If you have any inquiries about the conference, please contact Carolina Fransson or Mari Zetterqvist Blokhuis Sweden2010@equitationsscience.com