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WWAED Refresher Training Day and Update Meeting

The WWAED Training Refresher Day and Update Meeting took place on Saturday 10th January 2009. The meeting took place at the Harborough Hotel prior to travelling to the Retreat Farm Stud at Whissendine in Rutland, for the practical work.

The attendees for the day were Carl Duggan, Nat Heal, Martin Brookes, David Waters, Gary Khakhian, Steve Goode, Louisa Fear and Chris Naphine. Louisa and Chris are two of our newer members and it was good for all involved to put names to faces.

Update Meeting

The meeting room was only reserved for one hour, as the primary reason for the day was the practical session, but the meeting gave an opportunity for some information exchange and updates on the association progress.

Everybody was looking forward to the day ahead as this was our initial Training Refresher Day. Steve Goode outlined the day along with the reasons for the association introducing this event. One of the key visions for the association is that of continuous improvement. It is very easy for a dentist out in the field to develop habits that are not necessary beneficial to the work in question. When an individual is working in a vacuum, it is not always easy to stand back and to look at their work dispassionately. The association felt that running regular Refresher days (two per year initially) would enable an individual's work to be reviewed by their peers as well as by an assessor. The feedback and discussion resulting from the session would allow the member to refine their approach to their job. The association encourages all members to attend at least one Refresher Training session per year. Attendance will be identified against each dentist on the association website. This should allow customers to feel that this is yet another differentiator between WWAED dentists and everybody in the business. A second Refresher Training Day will be scheduled for later in the year.

One of the key topics for discussion was the expansion of the WWAED membership. All members were happy that the membership should increase, but were also mindful that we have worked hard to ensure the quality of the membership and that should not be compromised during growth. All new members should still have to undergo our assessment process which encourages the assessing member to ensure that the person being assessed would be a good fit for the association. It was also agreed that should any members wish to stand for election onto the committee, they would only be allowed to do so, providing that they have a sole membership to the WWAED and no involvement with any other associations.

The other main discussion point was the intention of the association to negotiate a blanket insurance cover for all WWAED members. If the association was covered by a blanket policy then any member of the public would have a comfort factor when booking a visit. It would also mean that all members, attending any functions like refresher training days or exams, would be insured. Steve Goode and Gary Khakhian are arranging a meeting with N.F.U. Insurance and will report back on their discussions to the membership.

The Refresher Training

Alan and Jaime Robertson and their daughters Claire and Sophie made everybody feel more than welcome on



arrival at The Retreat Farm Stud (see picture). It was an extremely cold day but once the work had started, nobody even felt the cold.

The dentists were split into pairs and the first horses were allocated. The process was that the dentists would decide which one of them would take the lead on a horse and then they would examine and diagnose the horse in question. The second dentist would then examine the horse and would confirm or disagree with the original diagnosis. The



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The retreat Farm Stud owner, Alan Robertson (centre), invited everybody under the infra red



Chris and Carl discussing the treatment plan

and the areas where some changes might be required. Gary would also provide input in the form of hints and tips to help complete the horse correctly.

The Retreat Farm Stud is a busy working yard that produces top quality show jumpers. However, even with a bunch of dentists under their feet, life carried without any hiccups, mucking out, exercising and jumping.



Claire Robertson exercising Retreats Vent

other members that were not able to attend today have missed an excellent day and must get themselves onto the next Refresher Training Day.”

Steve Goode



The guys having felt the cold were really keen to get to work!

dentists would then agree a treatment for the horse in question. Gary Khakhian, WWAED Level 2 Examiner was the association assessor on the day. If required, Gary would be called into the discussion prior to treatment beginning. The lead dentist would then begin the work on the horse. If any problems were encountered then the lead dentist would discuss with the partner and also would involve Gary in the discussions. At the end of the treatment, the second dentist would examine the results and then Gary would be called in to give his opinion. Gary would identify the areas that were correct

All the dentists were really pleased with the day and felt that they had gained a lot of valuable information. Carl Duggan said “I really appreciated the opportunity to attend this training day and I am pleased that I came. I have gained some valuable insights just by discussing situations with my peers and the input from Gary was highly beneficial. The



Gary checking David's horse

Association Materials

I have been developing some materials that could become standard association materials that any dentist could use. We could have a batch printed and individuals can request them as necessary. These can include:

An informational handout that can be left with owners. It could contain your contact details, as well as vital information on dental problems for owners.

An easy to complete checklist that can be left with owners detailing the treatment that was given to their horse. The form would be printed on self-carbonating paper and would have a labelled skull diagram printed on the reverse so that the owner can identify where the work took place in the mouth.

I have included examples of these in this letter and would appreciate your feedback.

Finally, please, please, please remember to send me photos and stories. We could really use them on the site.

Thanks, Steve