

New laser technology introduced to UCVM with help from Equine Foundation of Canada

By Gloria Visser-Niven

The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) now has a state-of-the-art surgical laser thanks to a generous gift of \$20,000 from the



Equine Foundation of Canada (EFC), which contributed to the overall costs of the technology.

The Dornier Diode Laser was unveiled in early March to a group of UCVM clinicians, veterinarians from the Distributed Veterinary Teaching Hospital (DVTH) and members of the Equine Foundation of Canada executive.

“It is very gratifying to see how the money that was provided to the college is spent to help the welfare of horses and learning for veterinarians,” said Eldon Bienert, President, Equine Foundation of Canada.

The Dornier Diode laser will accommodate a number of surgical applications for both equine and small animals. Laser surgery is minimally invasive therefore it reduces or eliminates the need for anesthesia and also reduces pain and the chance of infection.

“It is an excellent complimentary tool to the Dynamic Respiratory Scope (DRS), which allows us

to diagnose upper airway and throat problems that occur during exercise,” said Renaud Leguillete, Associate Professor (Equine Internal Medicine) and acting department head, Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (VCDS) “The laser will act like a high precision scalpel through the end of the endoscope and can therefore treat these conditions without the use of general anesthesia. This results in a shorter recovery time for the patient.”

“Laser surgery was previously not an option for treating horses in Alberta,” added Leguillete “We are now able to provide state-of-the-art diagnostic and



treatment options to performance horses throughout the province in collaboration with our distributed veterinary teaching hospitals.” As a clinical faculty member, Dr. Leguillete provides clinical expertise at Moore Equine in Balzac, Alberta, which is a partner in the UCVM distributed veterinary teaching hospital.

“On behalf of our students and clinicians, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Equine Foundation of Canada for their generous donation,” said Leguillete.