

2011 BVCS CONFERENCE

- Venue

Swindon

- Guest Speaker

Dr Karen Baum, Virginia

- Topics

Disorders of the neonate

Alpaca research

Camelids in the social setting

Raising the orphan cria

Herd health management

The downer camelid

- Other presentations

Selected topics from the 2011 international conference

Dentistry

Cervical trauma

Mycetism in an alpaca

Update on TB

- Report

It was a small, but highly enthusiastic group of BVCS members who gathered for the BVCS conference on the outskirts of Swindon over the 11th and 12th November 2011. Plans to hold sessions in the Touchbase Centre had to be hastily re-organized when it closed with no prior warning, but luckily the adjacent Hilton Hotel was very obliging and provided excellent conference facilities

Guest speaker for the weekend was Karen Baum, otherwise known as Lil Doc, from Virginia USA. She runs a large animal practice, with camelids forming a

large part of her caseload, and also breeds her own alpacas and llamas, so has a wealth of knowledge to pass on

The theme this year was the compromised camelid, so Karen concentrated on the neonate, rearing orphans and the downer animal, in addition to a session on herd management, passing on many practical tips. She has an easy lecturing style, inviting questions and comments throughout her presentations, which led on to many interesting discussions. In addition to telling us about the work of

the Alpaca Research Foundation, she also gave us details of how she uses camelids in the social setting to bring joy to those with physical or mental difficulties

Karin Mueller and Heike Köhler-Aanesen were the two BVCS members sponsored by BCL to attend the International Camelid Conference in Oregon earlier this year and between them they presented a selection of topics from that conference. We also made space in the packed

programme for practitioner case studies on mushroom poisoning, cervical trauma and camelid dentistry - all good examples of what might be encountered in the field

Lunch and break times were good opportunities for socializing and catching up on news in the camelid world and for a bit of light relief we all went bowling on the Saturday night, followed by a delicious Italian banquet

