



ARBEITSGRUPPE PFERD
TASK FORCE HORSE

RE-PRESENTS:

“Diagnosis, treatment and management of pain – a holistic approach”

A recap of the digital course with Katrina Ask, Sue Dyson, Laurie Goodrich, Pat Harris, Kevin Haussler, Sabine Kästner, Johan Lundblad, Joao Paulo Marques, Annamaria Nagy and Gemma Pearson.

If you have missed AGP's 2025 digital course on the holistic approach to the diagnosis, treatment and management of pain causing poor performance or behavioral changes, our series of digital recordings offers you the chance to catch up!

With a multidisciplinary approach, the course brought together a unique spectrum of expertise among the contributors, who bounced practical ideas off each other in an engaging way in the discussions. While some of the lectures focus on a **theoretical background of pain** in its varied forms – and how this can be communicated by horses or measured in certain anatomical areas – we provide you with a **plethora of practical take-home tips of key clinical relevance** when evaluating horses with a reported history of poor performance. Various approaches to pain management are described at length, providing evidence-based infor-

mation whenever possible to support efficacy. Methods of behavior modification are also discussed. **This is a unique course giving you tools to enhance your diagnostic and therapeutic skills for the benefit of your clients.**

A wealth of information on this often overlooked topic is contained in

- **Four recording packages of the lectures** providing insight into specific fields that need to be considered when a rider complains about a horse's decline in performance or failure to progress in training without any obvious causes.
- **Three recordings of the subsequent panel discussions** on those lectures.

Please note: all presentations are in English.

What's in the RECORDING PACKAGES OF THE LECTURES?

PACKAGE 1: Lectures on understanding pain as a cause for poor performance of horses without obvious clinical findings

- **What is pain?** Types of pain, their causes, specific regions and lesions. What influences its severity? What is wind-up, hyperesthesia, allodynia, neuropathic pain?
- **The challenges of localizing pain in horses.** Why it is difficult to describe where the pain comes from and what triggers it (lesion, saddle, rider, lack of natural movement, training, etc.).
- **How changes in performance can be manifest in horses from different work disciplines.** Understanding riders' problems.
- **Disguising musculoskeletal pain:** Common conditions that result in poor performance without overt lameness in hand or on the lunge – the ways in which horses modify gait to disguise pain (evolutionary benefit).

PACKAGE 2: Lectures on how to diagnose poor-performance-related pain in horses – part 1

- **The clinical examination:** history, posture evaluation, assessment of muscle development, musculoskeletal sources of pain, dynamic examination to assess pain or neurological modifications of gait.
- **The value and limitations of diagnostic anesthesia and pharmacological treatment.**
- **Diagnostic treatment options with integrative medicine practices and tools** (mechanical nociceptive thresholds, algometer, myofascial trigger points, acupuncture points, etc.).

PACKAGE 3: Lectures on how to diagnose poor-performance-related pain in horses – part 2

- **Use of the ridden horse pain ethogram for recognizing musculo-skeletal pain:** Uses, confounding factors and limitations – and other behavioral modifications (e.g., tacking-up, mounting, respiratory pattern & noises, sweating, defecation).
- **Difficult horses: Behavior changes due to pain without obvious lameness.**
- **When the vet is away: Assessing pain in horses through video analysis.**
- **Reaching the ultimate diagnoses to determine causes of pain with diagnostic imaging – uses and limitations.**

PACKAGE 4: Lectures on treatment and management of pain

- **Medical approach** (systemic and specific like intraarticular): Evidence for clinical efficacy?
- **Nonpharmacological treatment options** (manual therapies, acupuncture, electrophysical modalities): Evidence for clinical efficacy?
- **EGUS: Is it the stomach?** How to know and manage or even avoid through nutrition?
- **Biopsychosocial approach** to treating these cases.

What's in the RECORDINGS OF THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS?

These informal interactive discussions expand on what is delivered in the formal lectures, reflecting the panelists' individual experiences with horses from different geographical locations and different sports disciplines.

RECORDING 1

(supplementary to lecture package 1)

Panel discussion on understanding pain as a cause for poor performance of horses without obvious clinical findings

Panelists: Sue Dyson, Kevin Haussler, Sabine Kästner

Chair: Katrina Ask

RECORDING 2

(supplementary to lecture package 2 and 3)

Panel discussion on how to diagnose poor-performance-related pain in horses

Panelists: Katrina Ask, Sue Dyson, Kevin Haussler, Johan Lundblad, Annamaria Nagy, Gemma Pearson

Chair: Joao Paulo Marques

RECORDING 3

(supplementary to lecture package 4)

Panel discussion on treatment and management of pain

Panelists: Laurie Goodrich, Pat Harris, Gemma Pearson, Joao Paulo Marques

Chair: Sue Dyson

Do I get a CPE CERTIFICATE? The **German Academy for Continuous Education for Veterinarians** (Akademie für Tierärztliche Fortbildung – ATF) credits the recording packages of lectures with a total of **15 hours of CPE**. To acquire the certificate please send an email to Arno Lindner (arnolindner@agpferd.com) requesting the questionnaire with questions on the content of the lectures. Answer the questions and send the questionnaire to Arno – if the answers are correct, the accreditation will be sent to you via email.

How long do I have ACCESS TO THE RECORDINGS? Your purchase grants you viewing rights to the individual recording(s) for one year. Your window of access to any item starts with the first view of that item. Should you wish to revisit any item after its expiration, please contact us for an extension at half price.

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