

## NEWS RELEASE

### EQUINE VETS NEEDED IN THE SEA TO SKY CORRIDOR

Horses are an integral part of Squamish's inception, development, and history. The Squamish Valley Equestrian Association celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year – one of the oldest recreational clubs in Squamish - and offers horse lovers from Pemberton to North Vancouver the opportunity to participate in educational clinics, recreational activities, and multi-discipline competitive events throughout the year.

Although there are numerous veterinary clinics throughout the Sea-to-Sky corridor, none of them offer large animal services. In part, this is a result of many new graduates choosing to focus only on small animal care, in urban settings, with separate, dedicated after-hours emergency clinics to which late-night emergencies are directed. The "James Herriot", on-call, mixed practice veterinarian of days past is a rarity now. Another limiting factor is the BC veterinarian's governing body (CVBC) policy to not allow small-animal clinics to offer limited equine services. The CVBC requires clinics to stock a full hospital's worth of equipment and medications, which is simply not feasible for the local small animal clinics. This lack of large-animal veterinary care is a source of stress for horse owners in the community, particularly when their animal suffers with a late night emergency. A number of local horses have tragically been lost to illness such as colic because of the absence of available large animal veterinary services.

Since 1998, horse owners in Squamish have been fortunate to have the services of Aldergrove's Paton and Martin Veterinary Services on an intermittent, non-emergency basis. The equine veterinarians make the trip every few months to offer routine, non-emergency health care services to local horse owners. Dr. Eric Martin will be coming to Squamish on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> to meet local horse owners, and have a round-table discussion on the veterinary needs of the expanding horse community. He will also be presenting an educational talk, "Colic in the Horse – Are We Winning?" Colic, a term covering numerous gastro-intestinal issues in horses, often requires emergency medical intervention by a veterinarian, and is one of the leading causes of death in horses. Paton and Martin are interested in addressing the needs, and hearing the concerns of local horse owners.

Dr. Martin has donated his time so that our club may offer the educational talk as an SVEA club fundraiser. Admission is \$5 for members, and \$15 for non-members.

As seating is limited we are requesting that people RSVP with Sandra at (604)898-4248.

The talk is April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Sandman Hotel and Suites, 39400 Discovery Way, Squamish from 7-9pm. Doors open at 6:30p.m.