Veterinary Medicine for Falconry into the 21st Century

A collaboration between the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, the Qatari Society of Algannas and the Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital

Qatar, Doha 29th Jan 2014 - 1st Feb 2014
The Algannas Society of Qatar was officially founded in 2008 and is a cultural association specializing in Falconry. It works to support traditional hunting, falconers and their management, as well as organizing various falconry events. It represents Arab hunters in regional and global events. Algannas interests include hunting by falconry, salukis and shooting and we are concerned with developing traditional hunting and helping to spread and introduce falconry to the new generation. Algannas’ mission is to officially legalize traditional hunting and Arab falconry by increasing membership locally and regionally. Also to develop methods and laws governing falconry by providing services and organizing events and competitions and encouraging participation, research and studies within this area. In order to enable us to carry out this role with success and distinction, Algannas has excellent facilities and equipment. The Algannas building is located in the cultural district Katara in the West Bay area of Doha, Qatar and consists of a hunting showroom and lecture theatre for seminars, a veterinary clinic for the treatment of falcons, hunting supplies area, guestroom and the administrative offices.
From right to left: Mr. Ali Al-Mihshadi, President of Algannas Society of Qatar
HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar
HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
HE Sheikh Jasim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
“At my first International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey meeting in 2004, I attended an historic event and came to meet icons of the falconry world who have subsequently become firm friends.

Attending any IAF Meeting is always an incredible eye opener; this organization gives the opportunity to meet falconers from every corner of the globe and also provides a major channel to defend and promote the Art of Falconry.

The incredible value of the opportunity the Algannas Society of Qatar has afforded to the world’s falconers and veterinarians to serve falconry and to meet and interact with each other cannot be underestimated.”

Dr. Adrian Lombard, IAF President
Welcome from the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

The IAF was established in 1968 by a small group of European national Falconry Clubs to represent Falconry at an international level. It has now grown into a very significant organization representative of “hunting” Falconers; we have become truly global with over 80 member organizations representing Falconers from 60 different nations. We represent the conservation interests of Falconers as members of the IUCN and with representation at all of the major international and regional conservation conventions. We promote the Culture of Falconry both Intangible, through our association as an advisory NGO to the UNESCO Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Tangible, through our promotion of Falconry Art and cultural research.

We also represent Falconers as being the foremost experts in the animal welfare aspects and husbandry of Falconry Raptors. Falconers are intimately involved with the health and wellbeing of their hawks and good quality Falconry is impossible without hawks that are in peak fitness and in good physical and mental health. Only Falconers know how to achieve this. We do, therefore, have a vested interest in promoting excellence in Veterinary care. Thus it is a very great pleasure to us to welcome an array of the top international Raptor Veterinarians to our Meeting and to incorporate this Conference into our proceedings.

Adrian Lombard – IAF President, January 2014
The Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital
The Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital, at Souq Waqif Doha, Qatar, is a state run facility which was originally a small clinic in the vicinity of the traditional market, or Souq, since late 2008. Due to the fast growing number of falcons brought to that clinic, a need for expanding the facility was felt.

Construction of the present hospital building was completed in 2011, the small clinic was moved to the new building in August and the clinical work started in September 2011. The 488 square meter three floor hospital is composed of a main clinic, hospitalization, quarantine and a full range of diagnostic and research laboratories.

The laboratories include clinical pathology, microbiology and molecular biology with flow cytometry and liquid chromatography double mass spectrometry units, apart from other equipment. The daily turnover of falcons is 120-90 in the falconry season from September through to April where other equipment and high end digital radiography and high definition abdominal endoscopy are used for clinical examination of the birds.

The hospital is run by a specialized staff including:

1. Dr. IKDAM M. ALKARKHI (Manager of Sowq Waqif Falcon Hospital Veterinary Consultant)
2. Dr. FAISAL CHEERAN (Veterinarian)
3. Dr. AMRITA DEB (Veterinarian researcher)
4. Dr. ADIL H. NAWAB ALDEEN (Pharmacist)
5. Dr. MUHAMMED ALI (Histologist, Lab Consultant)
6. Dr. QURAT ALAIN (Microbiologist)
7. Eng. MUQDAD ALBAYATI (Quarantine Section)
8. Eng. ABDULQADER ALQAISI (Clinic Coordinator)
9. Eng. ALHAKAM TAYMOOR (Medical Coordinator)
10. BINO JUNE (Hematology)
11. SHARIF MAJEED (Cytology)
12. PRASOON IBRAHIM (Molecular Biology)
13. SANAA P. (Clinical Pathology)
14. MUJEEB A. (Endoscopy Tec.)
15. MUHAMMED ASHRAF (Vet Worker Clinic)
16. HISHAN SAHEB (Endoscopy Tec.)
17. WILSOON J. (Parasitology)
18. AZIZ MUSA (X-RAY Tec.)
19. ABDUL NASSER P. (Feather Imping Tec.)
20. MUHAMMED N. (Feather Imping, & Cosmetic Tec.)
21. KHALIL S. (Hospitalization Sec.)
22. TASNEEM S. FAROOK (Identification Tec.)
23. MUHAMMED J (Vet Worker Endoscopy)
24. OMOR ALMUKHTAR (Vet Worker Endoscopy)
25. RAHEEM S (Vet Worker Endoscopy)
26. SUDHEER ABDUL RAHMAN (Vet Worker X-RAY)
27. MUHAMMED ASHRAF (Vet Worker Clinic)
28. SHAH ALHAMEED (Vet Worker Clinic)
Principal Speakers

Chairman: Prof. Dr. med. vet. Thomas Richter (IAF Vice-president for Europe)
Prof. Dr. Thomas Richter was born in in the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany). He was educated in Munich and in 1986 became the official-veterinarian in the Department of Animal Welfare of the State Ministry of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Since 1991 he has been Professor for Animal Husbandry and Ethology at Nürtingen University of Applied Sciences. He has been extensively published, particularly on the subject of animal welfare. He was president of DFO (Deutscher Falkenorden) from 1998-2002 and is a very active falconer. He was elected IAF’s Vice-president for Europe in Kearney, Nebraska in 2012.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. habil Michael Lierz (Germany)
Justus-Liebig- Universität Giessen, Germany. Professor Lierz holds diplomas from the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science, the European College of Zoological Medicine (Wildlife Population Health) and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (Zoological Medicine). He is a Certified Specialist in Poultry and Avian Medicine, in Zoo-Wild-and Park Animals and in Microbiology and in Species Conservation.

Prof. Dr. med. vet. habil. Rüdiger Korbel (Germany)
Maximilians-Universität München. Professor Korbel holds a Hospital management, Dip ECZM (Avian) Diploma in Hospital Management, a FTA for poultry including TG pigeons, ornamental and zoo birds and is renowned in the field of avian ophthalmology.

Dr. Lorenzo Crosta (Italy)
Graduated in February 1989 with honors in veterinary medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan, Institute of Pathology with Avian Pathology. From 2000 to 2005 he was Director Veterinary of Loro Parque and of Fundación Loro Parque, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. From 2005 to 2007 he was Expert for the European Commission (EFSA), member of the Animal health and welfare risks Associated with the import of wild birds other than poultry into the European Union (EFSA-Q-2005-0). Founder and co-owner, Veterinary Clinic Valcurone, Missaglia

Dr. Marino García-Montijano (Spain)
Dr. Marino Garcia Montijano has practiced falconry since 1989. Since graduating from Universidad Complutense of Madrid in 1995 he has been involved in numerous conservation and rehabilitation programs of Spanish endangered species as a wildlife medicine and conservation consultant. He opened the first private falcon hospital in Spain in 2007 and has extensive of working in the Middle East. He has written scientific publications on raptors and presented several lectures, both at national and international conferences.

Dr. Neil Forbes (United Kingdom)
European Recognised Specialist in Avian Medicine. He has been senior lecturer at the University of Bristol and is the current President of the European College of Zoological Medicine. Neil graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1983 with a 1st Class Honours degree, gained RCVS Specialist status in 1992, FRCVS by examination in Exotic Bird Medicine in 1996 and European Diploma in 1997. He has received the following awards: MSD AgVet Trophy and Award, Centenary Award, Mackellar Award, BSAVA Melton Award, BVA William Hunting Award and Lafeber Avian Practitioner Award and the Gerlach Senior Award. He has written and published widely as well as lecturing to many international conferences.
Dr. Antonio Di Somma (Dubai Falcon Hospital)
Dr. Antonio Di Somma (Italy) received his degree in Veterinary Medicine in Napoli (Italy) in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine “Federico II of Hoehenstaufen”. In 1981 he received his degree of Specialist in Small Animal Medicine & Surgery in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Pisa. From 2001 to date he was head of Veterinary Services at “Dubai Falcon Hospital”, one of the largest Falcon Hospitals of the world with more than 2000 avian cases in a year. He is a long life falconer who has flown many species of raptors for falconry and rehabilitation purposes.

Dr. Keisuke Saito (Japan)
Dr. Keisuke Saito is a wildlife veterinarian and director of the Institute for Raptor Biomedicine Japan. He is a member of the Committee for the Conservation of the Endangered Fauna and Flora (Japanese Ministry of the Environment), a member of the Expert Committee of the Japanese Endangered Species (J.M.E.). He is on the Executive committee member of the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV) and the Executive Committee of the Japanese Association for Zoo and Wildlife Medicine.

Dr. Ladislav Molnar (Slovakia)
Dr. Molnar is head of the Avian Exotics and Wildlife Clinic at the Univ. of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice, Slovakia and a practicing falconer. He has worked extensively in Gulf and is the Veterinary Specialist on the Advisory Committee of IAF.

Dr. Faris Al-Timimi (Qatar)
Dr. Al-Timimi graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Baghdad 1976. In 1981 he moved to Qatar to set up the Doha Veterinary Practice and in 2002 started the Eastern Region Falcon Clinic in Saudi Arabia. He returned to Doha in 2010 to start his Veterinary Clinic in Katara. Dr. Al-Timimi’s published books on falconry are: "Falcons and Falconry in Qatar", 1987; "The Falcons and Hunting Practiced by the Arab", an Arabic Book, 1991 and "Falconry and Hunting in Arabia", 2007.

Dr. Margit Müller (Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital)
Dr. med. vet. Margit Müller (Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital), Director of Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital, graduated in veterinary medicine, obtained her PhD in falcon medicine from Munich University, Germany and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK. In 2008 she received the prestigious Abu Dhabi Award, voted on by the people of Abu Dhabi to honour individuals who make a difference to their community. She has received several other international awards and recognitions and has discovered two new diseases in falcons and authored books on Falcon Medicine and Veterinary Practice Management and over 40 scientific international publications.

Dr. Richard Jones (United Kingdom)
Graduated from Liverpool University’s School of Veterinary Science in 1995, completing his elective in avian medicine. He undertook an avian residency and master’s degree programme at The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota. In 2010 he set up Avian Veterinary Services in Cheshire, UK, a dedicated avian practice. He has lectured and published internationally on aspects of avian medicine and surgery. He is an active member of the British Falconers’ Club and Honorary Vet to the Welsh Hawking Club.

Dr. Ikdam Majid Alkarkhi DVM MSc (Souk Waqif Falcon Hospital, Doha)
Dr. Ikdam is a Veterinarian Consultant and the Manager of Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital (SWFH), the most prestigious and unique Falcon Hospital in the world. He began his childhood dream of becoming a prominent and established Falcon specialist by graduating with a Bachelors degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Baghdad in 2001. He later completed a Masters degree with Honors in Avian Pathology in 2004. Moving to Qatar in 2005 he began his professional career treating falcons before being given the opportunity to design and over view the construction of Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital in 2007. He opened the doors in 2008. In addition to this Dr. Ikdam has found time to publish several research papers and has authored the medical text book ‘Falcon Husbandry diseases’, the first of its kind to be written and published in Arabic.
Papers

- Prof. Dr. Michael Lierz DZooMed, DipECZM (WPH), DipECPVS
  Veterinary Perspectives of Falcon Breeding
- Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Korbel Dip ECZM (Avian)
  Raptor Ophthalmology: principles and application
- Dr. Lorenzo Crosta DVM, PhD
  Radiology and Endoscopy: two of the most effective diagnostic tools in birds of prey
- Dr. Keisuke Saito
  Lead poisoning of wild raptors from ingestion of lead bullets and shot
- Dr. Marino García Montijano PhD
  Falcon Surgeries in the 21st Century
- Dr. Faris Al-Timimi
  The Importance of Breeding Healthy Falcons
- Dr. Neil Forbes BVetMed Dip ECZM (avian) FRCVS
  Recent Advances in Avian Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dr. Antonio Di Somma Dr. med. vet., S.D.S.A.
  Treatment of Aspergillosis in Falcons
- Dr. Ladislav Molnar PhD
  Injuries and Diseases of Falcons Related to Falconry Utilization
- Dr. Margit Müller MBA MRCVS
  Novel Diseases in Captive Falcons
- Dr. Richard Jones BVSc MSc MRCVS
  Wasting Syndrome in Captive Peregrine Falcons
- Dr. Ikdam Majid Alkarkhi DVM MSc
  Prevalence of Faecal Endoparasite ova in falcons in Qatar
Falconry, defined as taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey, depends on a completely healthy and stress-free bird, physically and psychologically able to catch its prey.

This premise brings a unique and mutually beneficial partnership between the falcon and the falconer. The only way to achieve excellent performance from a falconry bird is to have it in peak fitness and optimal health.

Dr. Med. Vet. Thomas Richter
IAF Europe Vice President
Practical Demonstrations

Presentations and Practical Lab

**Raptor Ophthalmology**
Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Korbel

A practical wetlab session on raptor ophthalmology for a limited audience. The number of participants would be, as an optimum twelve, as a maximum sixteen. *Approx. 3 hours*

**Raptor Orthopaedic Surgery**
Dr. Neil Forbes

Wetlab practical session, maximum class size 20 (vets and veterinary students only, no access for non-vets). Due to the practical considerations of a lab session, participants wishing to take part will need to register for this class on arrival. Depending on numbers a second session may be possible. *Approx. 3 hours*

**Raptor Endoscopy**
Dr. Lorenzo Crosta

Practical Endoscopy for raptors demonstration. *Approx. 3 hours*
Round Table and Workshop Discussions

Round Table Discussion IAF and International Veterinary Specialists
Dr. Adrian Lombard

Open to visiting vets, veterinary students, IAF Delegates and any falconer participating in the week’s events. This discussion will be an informal introduction to IAF and is intended to open up communication channels and enable everyone to outline their needs and expectations.

Round Table Discussion International Veterinary Specialists: future needs
Dr. Marino García Montijano

Open to visiting vets, veterinary students and IAF Delegates. A closing discussion on the conclusions of the conference, ideas for future communications to share knowledge about newly described diseases in falcons, new treatments, etc. These discussions should be a starting point to create a study group (whether inside IAF or outside it) about these cutting-edge topics which should help the evolution of falconry internationally during the 21st century.

Falcon Nutrition Masterclass
Dr. Neil Forbes

Designed mainly for vets and veterinary students, but also open to IAF Delegates and participating falconers.

Falcon Management Workshop
Dr. Ladislav Molnar

Open to visiting vets, veterinary students, IAF Delegates and any falconer participating in the week’s events. Workshop will include topics in basic management: food, mews, moulting etc. It also hoped that time will be available for advice on pre-purchase veterinary examination of falcons. The advice is aimed at falconers, but also to veterinary students and vets wishing specialize in falconry and who may not yet have sufficient experience.
# Schedule Veterinary Conference

## Wednesday, 29th Jan 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19:30 – 20:00</td>
<td>Chaired by Prof. Tom Richter</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Vets and IAF</td>
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## Thursday, 30th Jan 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td>IAF President and Algannas President</td>
<td>Formal opening of the Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:40</td>
<td>Dr. Margit Muller</td>
<td>New Diseases Affecting Falcons</td>
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<td>09:40 – 09:50</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50 – 10:10</td>
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<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 – 10:50</td>
<td>Professor Dr. Michael Lierz</td>
<td>Veterinary Perspectives of Falcon Breeding</td>
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<td>10:50 – 11:00</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:40</td>
<td>Dr. Lorenzo Crosta</td>
<td>Radiology and Endoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50 – 12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:40</td>
<td>Dr. Keisuke Saito</td>
<td>Lead Poisoning from Ingestion of Bullets and Shot</td>
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<td>12:40 – 12:50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:40</td>
<td>Dr. Ladislav Molnar</td>
<td>Injuries and Diseases of Falcons Related to Falconry Utilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:40 – 14:50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:50 – 15:30</td>
<td>Dr. Faris Al-Timimi</td>
<td>The Importance of Breeding Healthy Falcons</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 15:40</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:40 – 16:20</td>
<td>Dr. Antonio Di Somma</td>
<td>Treatment of Aspergillosis in Falcons</td>
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<td>16:20 – 16:30</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30 – 16:50</td>
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<td>Coffee break</td>
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### Friday, 31st Jan 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Professor Dr. Rudiger Korbel</td>
<td>PRactical Lab: Raptor Ophthalmology (3 hours), max. 16 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Dr. Neil Forbes</td>
<td>Practical Lab - Orthopaedic Surgery (3 hours), max. 16 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Dr. Ikdam Majid</td>
<td>Prevalence of Faecal Endoparasite ova in falcons in Qatar, approx. 40 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>Dr. Mohammed Ali</td>
<td>Trends in bacterial and fungal diseases in falcons in Qatar, approx. 40 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 13:00</td>
<td>Trip to Desert and Lunch Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Final of V Qatar International Falcons and Hunting Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30 – 19:30</td>
<td>Dinner Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30 – 20:00</td>
<td>Dr. Ladislav Molnar</td>
<td>Falcon Management Workshop in desert site</td>
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### Saturday, 1st Feb 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>Dr. Neil Forbes</td>
<td>Practical Lab - Orthopaedic Surgery (3 hours), max. 16 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>Professor Dr. Rudiger Korbel</td>
<td>Practical Lab - Ophthalmology (3 hours), max. 16 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:15</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 – 12:45</td>
<td>Dr. Lorenzo Crosta</td>
<td>Practical Session - Radiology and Endoscopy, approx. 40 people</td>
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<td>12:45 – 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>from 13:45</td>
<td>open Chaired Final Roundtable Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 – 13:45</td>
<td>Dinner Time</td>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In conjunction with the 2014 Council of Delegates Meeting of IAF this Veterinary Conference is chaired by Prof. Tom Richter of the Veterinary Department of Nürtingen University in Germany.

It will take place in Doha, Qatar, from 30th January to 1st February. We expect an audience of veterinarians and veterinary students invited from universities in the Gulf and from outside, as well as some interested falconers and rehabilitators. Time has been set aside for practical workshops. Speakers include eminent research scientist and well known vets specializing in falcons and avian veterinary medicine and all presentations will be collated into a bound booklet and will be provided to all those attending at the start of the conference.

On behalf of our hosts, the Algannas Society of Qatar (the IAF member organization for Qatar), and with the support of Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital, we have invited raptor vets and students wishing to specialize in this field. We hope that they will participate in this meeting which is aimed at developing the capacity of veterinarians to provide excellent medical care to falconry birds utilized in the Gulf region. There are outstanding veterinary facilities this region where “state of the art” facilities and treatment is available, not least the Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital in Doha which treats more than 9,000 falcons in a year. We hope that everyone will find it interesting to interact with Veterinarians from the region.

If during the Veterinary Conference you need more information or help you should call:
Algannas +974 55 50 09 75

ATF anerkannt. This conference has ATF approval.

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