

Practical Cardiology for Equine Practitioners – A 2-Day Practical Course

COURSE DATE: Fri 8 – Sat 9 May 2026 **COURSE VENUE:** Pferdegesundheits Rhein Main, near Frankfurt, Germany

SPEAKERS/INSTRUCTORS:



Virginia Reef BA, DVM, Dipl.ACVM, Dipl.ACVMR

American Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine & Equine Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation
Professor of Medicine & Director of Cardiology and Diagnostic Ultrasonography
New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania



Gunther van Loon DVM, PhD, Dipl.ECEIM, Assoc.Member ECVDI

European Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine
Professor of Equine Internal Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium



Fe ter Woort DVM, DVSc, Dipl.ACVM

American Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine
Equine Sports Medicine Practice, Belgium



Annelies Decloedt DVM, PhD

Associate Professor, Ghent University, Belgium

PROGRAM:

DAY 1

07:30 – 08:00	<i>Registration</i>	
08:00 – 08:10	<i>Course Introduction</i>	
08:10 – 08:45	<i>Cardiac Auscultation – Murmurs & Arrhythmias</i>	Virginia Reef
08:45 – 09:30	<i>The Foundations of Equine Echocardiography</i>	Virginia Reef
09:30 – 10:10	<i>The Essentials of Doppler Echocardiography</i>	Gunther van Loon
10:10 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

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DAY 1 (continued)

11:00 – 13:15	Practical Small-Group Echocardiography Sessions on live horses – Rotation through 4 stations: • Auscultation & Echocardiography – Session I • Auscultation & Echocardiography – Session II	VR, GvL, FTW, AD
13:15 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 16:30	Practical Small-Group Echocardiography Sessions on live horses – Rotation through 4 stations: • Auscultation & Echocardiography – Session III • Auscultation & Echocardiography – Session IV	VR, GvL, FTW, AD
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break	
17:00 – 17:30	Questions & Discussions	
17:30 – 19:00	<i>Wine & Cheese Reception</i>	

DAY 2

08:00 – 08:45	Electrocardiography – Indications, Principles & Interpretation	Gunther van Loon
08:45 – 10:00	Arrhythmias – Relevance & Treatment	Gunther van Loon
10:00 – 10:10	Questions	
10:10 – 10:40	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:40 – 11:10	Collapse & Sudden Cardiac Death	Virginia Reef
11:10 – 12:30	Interpretation of Cardiac Findings – Impact on Performance, Rider Safety & Life Expectancy	Virginia Reef
12:30 – 12:40	Questions & Discussion	
12:40 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Practical Small-Group Sessions – Rotation between both Stations: • Acquisition & Interpretation of resting/exercising ECGs on live horses • Heart Murmurs & Arrhythmias PowerPoint Case-based Discussions	GvL VR
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:15 – 17:15	Cardiac Case-Discussions	VR
17:15 – 17:30	Questions, Discussion & Final Remarks	