

## Editorial news and events

### Book reviews

Proceedings of the Society of Nutrition Physiology, G. Breves (Ed.), DLG-Verlag Frankfurt (Main), Vol. 12, 133 pp., softcover, price 24.00 € plus postage, ISBN 3-7690-4096-1

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nutrition Physiology of Germany was held at Goettingen from 19 to 21 March 2003.

The Proceedings of this meeting comprise 98 of abstracts, one review paper on gastrointestinal bacteria (6 p.) and two communications of the Committee for Requirement Standards of the German Society of Nutrition Physiology (12 p.).

The abstracts (one page each) are attributed to the following topics:

1. Metabolism, growth, lactation (12 papers)
2. Minerals and trace elements (13 papers)
3. Transport and cell-physiology (15 papers)
4. Digestion (8 papers)
5. Additives (17 papers)
6. Amino acids and nitrogen (12 papers)
7. Fat and lipids (11 papers)
8. Free topics (10 papers)

Most of the papers are prepared from scientist of German Institutes of Animal Nutrition and Animal Physiology but contributions of scientists from other European countries (e.g. Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, UK) as well as papers from overseas (Canada, USA) are also included.

The invited lecture prepared by L.H. Wieler and J. Jores from the Institute of Microbiology and Animal Epidemics of the Freie University of Berlin (Germany) is entitled “Evolution of gastrointestinal bacteria with respect to their pathogenicity”. The authors summarized the present knowledge in this field. Population structures and evolution of bacteria, horizontal gene transfer and recombination rate and homoplasmy were the main topics of the paper. Furthermore the authors enlightened

the use and risk of probiotics with respect to the acquisition of virulence determinants *via* horizontal gene transfer based on evolutionary studies.

The Committee of Requirement Standards of the German Society of Nutrient Physiology published "Predictions of metabolizable energy (ME) in complete dog and cat foods" and "Prediction of digestible energy (DE) in horse feed".

Predictive equations are given for three categories of complete dog and cat foods:

- Milk substitutes and liquid products for enteral nutrition
- Complete foods (dry, moist and semi moist) with a crude fibre content of less than 80 g per kg DM
- Complete foods with more than 80 g crude fibre per kg DM

The equation for horses [ $DE \text{ (MJ/kg DM)} = -3.54 + 0.0209 \text{ (MJ/g)} \times CP \text{ (g/kg DM)} + 0.0420 \text{ (MJ/g)} \times EE \text{ (g/kg DM)} + 0.0001 \text{ (MJ/g)} \times CF \text{ (g/kg DM)} + 0.0185 \text{ (MJ/g)} \times NFE \text{ (g/kg DM)}$ ] can be recommended as sufficiently accurate and practicable to estimate the content of digestible energy in single feedstuffs, mixed feed and total rations for horses. The equation is not valid for rations with more than 350 g crude fibre (CF) or 80 g ether extract (EE) per kg DM.

The Proceedings of the 57th Meeting (Vol.12, 2003) are available at the DLG-Verlag, Eschborner Landstraße 122, D-60489 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

The next meeting of the Society of Nutrition Physiology of Germany (the 58th one) will be held in Goettingen from 9 to 11 March, 2004.

G. Flachowsky  
Institut für Tierernährung  
der Bundesforschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft (FAL)  
Bundesallee 50  
38116 Braunschweig, Germany  
Tel.: +49 531 5963101  
Fax: +49 531 596 3199  
e-mail: gerhard.flachowsky@fal.de