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# Faculty Profile: Dr. Vanderwall, DVM, PhD, DACT

# Dr. Vanderwall, DVM, PhD, DACT

**Name:** **Dirk Vanderwall, DVM, PhD, DACT**

**Birthplace:** Upstate New York

**Position:** Dr. Vanderwall has recently joined Penn Vet as chief of the Section of Reproduction and director of the Georgia and Philip Hofmann Research Center for Animal Reproduction at New Bolton Center.

**Research interests:**

- Oxytocin hormonal treatment to block heat behavior in mares
- Aged mare oocyte quality

**Beginnings:** Dr. Vanderwall grew up in upstate New York and worked on a dairy farm while in high school. After high school, he pursued an associate's degree from the State University of New York and a baccalaureate degree with distinction from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. While pursuing studies at Cornell, Dr. Vanderwall met Dr. Gordon Woods, a leading reproduction specialist, who would become his mentor and colleague for many years.

**Education and Training:** Dr. Vanderwall continued studies at Cornell and earned his doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1986. After graduation, he worked at one of the nation's largest Standardbred horse farms—still maintaining ties with Dr. Woods—at the University of Idaho. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Vanderwall pursued graduate studies at the University of Idaho and earned a doctoral degree in animal physiology in 1992. Further postdoctoral studies brought him to the University of Kentucky for two years. From 1994 to 1999, he was assistant professor and clinical specialist focused on equine reproduction at Colorado State University before joining the Idaho faculty in 1999 as assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science.

**Earning Distinction:** The University of Idaho would remain home to Dr. Vanderwall for the next ten years while his career in reproduction continued to flourish. Dr. Vanderwall was recognized in 2005 by the American College of Theriogenologists as the world's top veterinarian specializing in animal reproduction. That honor followed his success in producing three mule clones in 2003 on a team that also included Dr. Woods and Dr. Ken White of Utah State University.

**Recent Publications:**

Vanderwall, D. K. Early Embryonic Loss. In: Robinson, N. E. and Sprayberry, K. A., eds., *Current Therapy in Equine Medicine 6*. Saunders/Elsevier, 2008:830–33.

Vanderwall, D. K. Early Embryonic Loss in the Mare. *J. Eq. Vet. Sci*. 2008. 28:691–702.

Vanderwall, D. K. How to Process a Dilute Ejaculate of Semen for Cooled-Transported Insemination. In *Proceedings, Annual Convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners*. 2008. 54:369–73.

Vanderwall, D. K. Counting Spermatozoa with a Hemacytometer. *J. Eq. Vet. Sci*. 2008. 28:244–46.

Vanderwall, D. K., Rasmussen, D. M., and Woods, G. L. Effect of Repeated Administration of Oxytocin During Diestrus on the Duration of Corpora Luteal Function in Mares. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 2007. 231:1864–67.

Vanderwall, D. K., Marquardt, J. L. and Woods, G. L. Use of a Compounded Long-Acting Progesterone Formulation for Equine Pregnancy Maintenance. *J. Equine Vet. Sci*. 2007. 27:62–66.

Vanderwall, D. K., Woods, G. L., Roser, J. F., Schlafer, D. H. Sellon, D. C., Tester, D. F. and White, K. L. Equine Cloning: Applications and Outcomes. *Reprod. Fertil. Dev*. 2006. 18:91–98.