

11. Acknowledgments

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to God for giving me the gift of life, His guidance, and the wonderful chance to fulfil my goals.

My heart-felt thanks to Prof. Dr. Bodo Hertsch for providing me with the opportunity to promote under his tutelage with such an interesting dissertation theme.

My gratitude to Dr. Stefanie Höppner for her dedication and advice both professional and scientific since the very beginning of this project.

To Prof. Edwin Thomas from the Health Science Center of the University of Tennessee (USA) for his assistance and constructive advice.

I would like to express my gratefulness to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for its decisive support, which made the execution of this work possible.

I thank the whole team of the Clinic for Horses, General Surgery and Radiology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin for their assistance.

To Karen Hornemann of the Institute of Biostatistics of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin for her valuable and helpful guidance.

To Simone Fietz and Dr. Angelika Bondzio of the Institute of Veterinary Biochemistry of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Freie Universität Berlin for the complete analysis of the MPO-Activity in synovia performed in that institute.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to my friends and colleagues: Kai Backhaus, Franziska Kremer, Annette Michel, Kira Thöring.

A special compliment to Petra Layer and to Monika Nethövel for their always kind assistance.

To Christopher Chiasson, for his kind assistance with the idiomatic phrasing of this work.

To Christiane, for her always loving support, understanding, and encouragement during the completion of this work.

To my parents, for their love, for their always unconditional support and for providing me with a good education. To my siblings, for always granting me their support.