

Establishment of the “Equine Science Consortium” Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio University

— A New Interdisciplinary Research Platform for the Sciences of Horses and Humans —

Keio Research Institute at SFC (Location: Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture; Director: Yoshinori Isagai) has officially established the Equine Science Consortium with the aim of advancing interdisciplinary research and social implementation related to horses, the people involved with horses, and the surrounding environment.

This consortium goes beyond the scope of natural science research such as biomechanics and physiology related to race horse performance. It embraces a wide array of topics including humanities and social science approaches to the well-being of both horses and humans, and the realization of a symbiotic society between them. The consortium seeks to enhance collaboration among researchers, engineers, industry professionals, local governments, horse owners, trainers, jockeys, and other stakeholders for new frontier.

Background of the Establishment

Since ancient times, horses have supported human civilization as domesticated animals in agriculture, transportation, and warfare. Today, they continue to contribute to society in forms such as racehorses and riding horses. Particularly in modern competitive and recreational riding, there is growing demand for the application of scientific training and motion analysis.

Keio Research Institute at SFC has been conducting research centered on the biomechanics of racehorses and the movement analysis of riders, striving to deepen the scientific understanding of the unity between horse and rider. With the establishment of this new consortium, we aim to apply this body of knowledge to industry, education, and regional development, thereby creating new value for all those involved with horses.

Key Activities of the Equine Science Consortium

1. Basic research and observational technology development related to equine biomechanics and physiology, including racehorses and disciplines such as dressage and show jumping. The findings will also be applied to robotics through studies of high-speed quadrupedal locomotion.
2. Research on equine injuries, diseases, and health management.
3. Studies on riding equipment and safety gear used by both horses and riders—such as horseshoes, saddles, armor, and helmets—and research into digital fabrication of such equipment.
4. Research into mental health benefits derived from human–horse interactions.
5. Promoting animal welfare through the post-retirement utilization of horses.

For Inquiries:

Equine Science Consortium, Keio Research Institute at SFC

Website: <https://equine-science.jp/>

Email: equ_sci@sfc.keio.ac.jp

