## Acknowledgements

It's hard to believe that it is time to write this section of my dissertation. This has been a difficult journey that has been a long time coming yet has gone by so fast. This will be a great achievement but not one that was accomplished without help.

I would like to thank first and foremost, Dr. David Kronfeld who served as chairperson of my committee. He has been a wonderful source of information, inspirati and collaboration. He allowed me to work in my own way and was there to get me back on track when needed. This also goes for Dr. David Sklan to whom I will always be grateful for his help and encouragement. He was always there when I needed help or encouragemen even over the many miles that separated us – thank goodness for email! I would also like to thank the other members of my committee including Dr. Larry Lawrence, Dr. Jay Williams, Dr. Joe Herbein and Dr. Ann Dunnington for their assistance.

This research would not have been possible without the help of several people to complete the conditioning, standard exercise tests and lab analysis. Because of this I a indebted to Mark White and Gary Bradley for their assistance in mixing feed, helping run SETs and keeping the treadmill in working order. The daily grind of conditioning the horses would not have been possible without Kristen Kline, Tiffany McCullough, Carrie Swanson and many volunteers. The collection of samples and their analysis was made much easier with the invaluable coordination and lab assistance from Louisa Gay. The data would not have fallen together without statistical advice from Dr. David Notter.

Appreciation is also expressed to those who helped with SETs. For little more than Carol Lee donuts, Tiffany McCullough and Louisa Gay struggled with the blood gas machine, Kristen Kline pulled on syringes to obtain venous blood samples until she had blisters on her fingers and Mark "Moose" White was always willing to flex his muscle with

the horses. Of course, Dr. Kronfeld was always there to save the day by helping with catheters that wouldn't work right and providing pizza for lunch.

The support of friends that I have made in the course of obtaining this degree has been wonderful. Kristen Kline always provided me with a place to stay and an ear to listen. Rhonda Hoffman was always there to help when I had a question and to encourage me when I doubted myself. Her assistance and friendship will never be forgotten. Lynn Taylor made a wonderful travel companion (Campi!) and was helpful in critiquing my work. Many others including Tiffany McCullough, Janice Holland, Amy Ordakowski and Shelly Andrew always helped when needed.

This section would not be complete without thanking my family for their support. First and foremost my parents, John and Phyllis Graham, who instilled in me the desire to achieve any goal I set for myself. My brothers (John and Michael) and sisters (Lisa and Anne) who always inquire about my progress. And last but not least, I must thank my husband, Scott for his unrelinquishing support on this quest. He has endured many years o neglect and few weekends where I didn't have to work. The end of this journey is as much a reward for him as it is for me. Without his understanding, support and love this would not have been possible and for him all I can say as a close is "I love you".