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Getting started with VetSRev

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VetSRev (www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/vetsrev) is a database of veterinary systematic reviews. VetSRev is produced using Refbase, an open source database for managing scientific literature & citations.

This introductory guide, Getting started with VetSRev, provides a brief overview of the functions of the database to help new users. For more information about VetSRev, please see [About VetSRev](#).

Detailed instructions for using Refbase (not specific to VetSRev) can be found in the online Refbase documentation—see in particular the section on “Usage”:

<http://www.refbase.net/index.php/Documentation>

If you have any queries about using VetSRev that are not answered by this guide, please contact us at cevm@nottingham.ac.uk.

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1. The VetSRev Home Page

When you access the VetSRev database, you enter at the **Home Page**:

The screenshot shows the VetSRev Home Page. At the top is a purple header with the VetSRev logo and the text 'VetSRev - database of veterinary systematic reviews'. Below the header is a grey navigation bar containing the 'Main menu' with links: Home | Show All | Simple Search | Advanced Search. To the right of the navigation bar is a search box with a 'Search' button. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'Recent Changes' with links: added: today | yesterday | last 7 days; edited: today | yesterday | last 7 days; published in: 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010. Below this is a list of 'Five most recently added records' with five entries, each showing the author, year, title, journal, and a 'View' icon. At the bottom of the page is an 'About' section and a footer with links: Home | CQL Search | Library Search | Show Record | Export Citations | Help.

At the top of the page is the **page header** (the area between the purple and grey horizontal lines with the logos at either side). The page header is always visible, whatever page you are viewing.

Towards the left of the page header is the **main menu**:

[Home](#) | [Show All](#) | [Simple Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#)

The links in the main menu have the following functions:

- **Home** — to return to the Home Page
- **Show all** — to display all the records in the database
- **Simple search** — to search some of the fields in the database records
- **Advanced search** — to search any of the fields and to sort by field

At the centre of the Home Page are shown the **five most recently added records** (publications or citations). Above these, under the heading **Recent Changes**, are links to display records added or edited over specified time periods, or published in a particular year:

The screenshot shows the 'Recent Changes' section of the VetSRev Home Page. It features a heading 'Recent Changes' and three links: 'added: today | yesterday | last 7 days', 'edited: today | yesterday | last 7 days', and 'published in: 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010'.

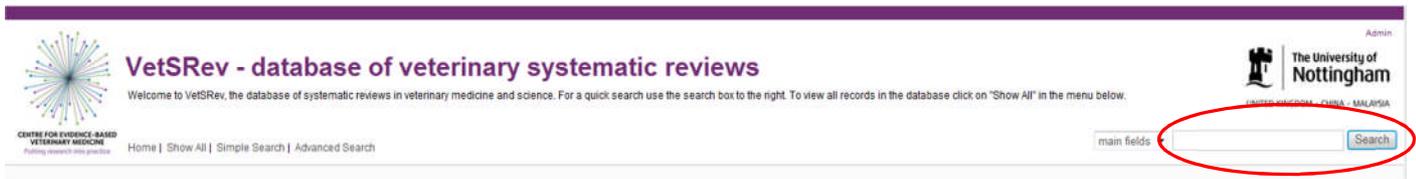
2. How do I view all the records in the database?

To view all the records in the database, click on **Show all** in the **main menu**:



3. How do I do a quick search?

At the right of the page header below the University of Nottingham logo is the **Quick Search box**:



Quick
search box

The **Quick Search** is the easiest way to search for citations on a particular topic in the database. Simply type your search term into the Quick Search box and press the grey "Search" button.

The Quick Search defaults to searching the **main fields** (Author, Title, Publication, Keywords, Abstract), which we recommend, or you can specify a single field to search from the drop down list to the left of the Quick Search box.

N.B. After you have performed a search of "main fields" with the Quick Search, the selected search field will change to "author". If you want to perform a new Quick Search of the main fields you will need to re-choose this option in the drop-down menu or use your web browser's back arrow.

For more information on searching, including how to combine search terms, please see Sections 8-13.

4. How do I view records in the results display?

When you do a search in VetSRev or select Show all, the **results display** defaults to the **List View**, which shows the main fields (Author, Title, Year etc.) arranged in columns:

Search & Display options

Results initially sorted by Author field

Click on heading to sort by a field

Select All	Deleted All	Title	Year	Publication	Volume	Pages	Links
<input type="checkbox"/>		Individual subject meta-analysis of parameters for Cryptosporidium parvum shedding and diarrhoea in animal experimental models	2012	Epidemiology and Infection	Publication ahead of print	1-17	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		Meta-analytical study of productive and nutritional interactions of mycotoxins in growing pigs	2012	Animal : an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1475-1482	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		Meta-analysis on the effects of the physical environment, animal traits, feeder and feed characteristics on the feeding behaviour and performance of growing-finishing pigs	2012	Animal : an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1275-1289	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quantitative assessment of the effects of space allowance, group size and floor characteristics on the lying behaviour of growing-finishing pigs	2010	Animal : an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	4	777-783	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		A meta-analysis of the combined effect of housing and environmental enrichment characteristics on the behaviour and performance of pigs	2010	Applied Animal Behaviour Science	127	73-85	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		Meta-analysis of the effect of immunocastration on production performance, reproductive organs and boar taint compounds in pigs	2012	Animal : an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1330-1338	↕ →
<input type="checkbox"/>		Veterinary clinical research database for homeopathy: placebo-controlled trials	2013	Complementary Therapies in Medicine	21	115-120	↕ →

Initially the results are ordered by the Author field. To **sort records by a particular field**, click on the purple heading at the top of the column for that field. For example, click on the field heading for **Publication** to sort the records by publication (journal) name; clicking again will reverse the sort order, as indicated by the arrow:

Publication ↑

Alternatives to Laboratory Animals : ATLA

Behavioural Processes

BMC Veterinary Research

BMC Veterinary Research

Comparative Medicine

Publication ↓

Veterinary Surgery : VS

Veterinary Surgery : VS

Veterinary Record

Veterinary Record

Veterinary Record

Clicking **Search & Display Options** (towards the top left of the results display) enables you to **search within results** (see Section 13 “How do I combine search terms?”):

Search within Results:

author

Exclude matches

Display Options:

author

20 records per page

You can also use Search & Display Options to **show or hide particular fields** in the results display (**Display Options**) and **change the number of records displayed per page** in the results—the default is 20 records per page.

5. How do I change the results display to a different view?

To change from List View to **Citations view** or **Details view** use the links towards the top right of the results display:

The screenshot shows the VetSRev database interface. At the top left, there is a logo and the text "VetSRev - database of veterinary systematic reviews". Below this, it says "1-20 of 33 records found matching your query (RSS | history)". There are navigation links: "Home | Show All | Simple Search | Advanced Search". A search bar is visible with the text "author" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there is a red circle around the text "Search & Display Options". In the main results area, there is a table with columns: Author, Title, Year, Publication, Volume, Pages, and Links. At the top right of the table, there are links for "List View | Citations | Details" with a printer icon. A red circle highlights these links, and a red arrow points to them with the text "Change results view".

- **Citations** shows the records as they would appear in a reference list; to sort in this view you need to click on Search & Display Options at the top left.
- **Details** shows all the fields in the records; in this view you can sort by any field by clicking on the relevant field heading.
- The **printer symbol**  changes the results display to a format suitable for printing.

6. How do I view the original publication for a citation?

In **List view** and **Citations view**, the **arrow**  at the far right next to each citation is a **link to the web page for the original publication** (if available):

Author ↑	Title	Year	Publication	Volume	Pages	Links
Abraham, R.M.C.M.; Nogueira, P.A.; Malucelli, M.C.	[Meat and milk black market – bovine tuberculosis]	2005	Archives of Veterinary Science	10	1-17	
Aceto, H.; Miller, S.A.; Smith, G.	Onset of diarrhea and pyrexia and time to detection of Salmonella enterica subsp enterica in feces in experimental studies of cattle, horses, goats, and sheep after infection per os	2011	Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association	238	1333-1339	
Adell, A.D.; Miller, W.A.; Harvey, D.J.; Vanwormer, E.; Wuerzt, S.; Conrad, P.A.	Individual subject meta-analysis of parameters for Cryptosporidium parvum shedding and diarrhoea in animal experimental models	2012	Epidemiology and Infection	Epublishing ahead of print	1-17	

N.B. Please note that you may not be able to read the full text if the publication is not open-access or if you do not belong to an institution with a subscription to the journal.

If you follow a link to the original publication, use your web browser's back arrow to return to the VetSRev database.

7. How do I view an individual record for a citation?

In **List view** and **Citations view**, the **magnifying glass symbol**  at the far right next to each citation is a **link to display an individual record**:

Author ↑	Title	Year	Publication	Volume	Pages	Links
Abraham, R.M.C.M.; Nogueira, P.A.; Malucelli, M.I.C.	[Meat and milk black market – bovine tuberculosis]	2005	Archives of Veterinary Science	10	1-17	
Aceto, H.; Miller, S.A.; Smith, G.	Onset of diarrhea and pyrexia and time to detection of Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica in feces in experimental studies of cattle, horses, goats, and sheep after infection per os	2011	Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association	238	1333-1339	 →
Adell, A.D.; Miller, W.A.; Harvey, D.J.; Vanwormer, E.; Wuerft, S.; Conrad, P.A.	Individual subject meta-analysis of parameters for Cryptosporidium parvum shedding and diarrhoea in animal experimental models	2012	Epidemiology and Infection	Publication ahead of print	1-17	 →

Clicking  shows **all the fields for an individual record**, including author, title, year, publication type, publication title, volume, issue, pages, keywords, abstract and notes:

Record		Links	
Author ↑	Allen, K.J.; Christley, R.M.; Birchall, M.A.; Franklin, S.H.		
Title	A systematic review of the efficacy of interventions for dynamic intermittent dorsal displacement of the soft palate	Type	Journal Article
Year	2012	Publication	Equine Veterinary Journal
Volume	44	Issue	3
Keywords	Airway Obstruction/etiology/therapy/ veterinary Animals Evidence-Based Practice/standards Horse Diseases/diagnosis/etiology/ therapy Horses Palate, Soft/ pathology/physiopathology Quality Assurance, Health Care Research/standards Treatment Outcome		
Abstract	There are numerous treatments for correction of dorsal displacement of the soft palate (DDSP). However, the efficacy of these treatments is controversial and there is little consensus on how best to treat this condition. The aims of this study were to systematically review the literature and to assess the evidence on the clinical effects of interventions for dynamic intermittent DDSP. A secondary objective was to assess whether factors relating to study quality affected reported success rates. Twenty-three studies were included, covering a wide number of interventions but also differing widely in terms of study design, sample size, method of diagnosis, outcome measure and the number lost to follow-up. The assessment of adverse effects was severely limited because of lack of reporting. The way in which success is measured appears to have a great effect on the reported results. Research synthesis has been severely limited because of the heterogeneity in the included studies. The low level of evidence makes it difficult to draw firm conclusions as to the efficacy of procedures for DDSP. Hence it is currently not possible to determine which procedure is the most appropriate. This systematic review highlights the difficulties of studying palatal dysfunction and suggests areas where improvements can be made in future studies.		
Address	Department of Clinical Veterinary Science, University of Bristol, UK. kate.allen@bristol.ac.uk		
Corporate Author		Thesis	
Publisher		Editor	
Language	English	Original Title	
Series Editor		Abbreviated Series Title	
Series Volume		Series Issue	2011/09/02
ISSN	2042-3306 (Electronic) 0425-1644 (Linking)	Edition	
Area		Medium	
Notes	MEDLINE, PUBMED, ISI Web of Science, CAB Abstracts, Embase and IVIS searched	Conference	
Call Number	UoN @ douglas.grindlay @ 612	Approved	no
		Serial	1551

Permanent link to this record

<< 1 >>

List View | Citations | Details 

The **Notes** field is added by the VetSRev team and indicates which databases were searched by the authors of the cited systematic review.

The **arrow** → (or arrows) at the far right under the heading **Links** takes you to the original publication online (if available).

Clicking on the **printer symbol**  shows the record in a format suitable for printing.

Having viewed an individual record, you can use your web browser's back arrow to return to the search results display in List view or Citations view.

☞8. How does the database perform a search?

When searching, the database software performs a “contains” search by default. This means that the search will return all records where the searched field contains the specified search characters, not just complete words. For example, searching for “septic” will find septic, septicaemia, septicemia, antiseptic, aseptic and aseptically, but NOT asepsis. If you are searching for cats as a topic, be sure to search for “cats”, as “cat” will return many records with words that contain those three letters, including the word cattle.

If your search consists of several words, Refbase will return all records where the searched field contains precisely those words in the same order. For example, if you search “mitral valve disease”, the search will return only records with the exact word sequence (or string) “mitral valve disease”. This means that you do not need to enclose the words with quotation marks to force an exact match. However, as there are often alternative terms in veterinary medicine—for example mitral valve insufficiency and mitral disease in this example—you may be better searching for a single, specific word, e.g. using the search term “mitral”.

☞9. How do I search for citations on a specific animal species?

The easiest way to search for citations on a particular animal species is using the default “main fields” option in the **Quick search** (see Section 3 “How do I do a quick search?” above), as this search option includes the title, abstract and keywords.

Almost all the records in the database are indexed with **keywords**. As the keywords have animal names in the plural, **use the plural form in your search**:

dogs, cats, cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, chickens, rabbits, fishes, amphibians, etc.

As noted earlier, searching for “cat” rather than “cats” will return many records with words that contain those three letters, including the word “cattle”.

☞10. How do I search for citations on a specific topic?

The **keywords** included in most of the records are either Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>) for records derived from PubMed, or CAB Thesaurus

terms (<http://www.cabi.org/cabthesaurus/>) for a few records where CAB Abstracts is used as the source because there is no PubMed record.

To maximise retrieval of relevant records, particularly where the topic you are interested in has a number of synonyms, it may help to browse the MeSH and CAB Thesaurus databases (see links above) to identify their standard thesaurus term(s) for use in your search. Using thesaurus terms also allows for differences between UK and US spellings, e.g. “anaesthetics” and “anesthetics”.

For very recent publications from PubMed, keywords may not yet have been added, so you will be searching the title and abstract for specific topics. However, in such cases we have indexed the record with the animal name(s) in the keywords field.

☞ 11. What does the Simple Search do?

The **Simple Search** is accessed via the main menu towards the left of the page header. This allows you to search six of the main fields, but *not* the abstract or keywords. **Hence, we suggest that it is best not to use the Simple Search if you are searching for citations on a particular topic.**

☞ 12. How do I use the Advanced Search?

The **Advanced Search** is accessed via the **main menu** towards the left of the page header:



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the VetSRev website. On the left is the logo for the Centre for Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine. The main title is "VetSRev - database of veterinary systematic reviews". Below the title is a welcome message and a search instruction. On the right is the University of Nottingham logo. The navigation menu includes "Home", "Show All", "Simple Search", and "Advanced Search", with "Advanced Search" circled in red. There is also a search box with a dropdown menu set to "main fields" and a "Search" button.

The Advanced Search allows you to **search any of the fields**, including the abstract or keywords, using various search logic commands from the drop down boxes. Having performed a search with the Advanced Search, clicking on Search & Display Options allows you to search within results.

However, for most purposes the Quick Search will be sufficient.

13. How do I combine search terms?

Because the Refbase software used for this database uses MySQL expressions, it is not possible to combine terms within a search box by typing the Boolean operators AND or OR.

If you want to combine more than one term in a search with “AND” (e.g. cats AND dogs), first search for one term in the search box (e.g. cats). Then, in the search Results display, click on **Search & Display Options** towards the top left:

VetSRV - database of veterinary systematic reviews
1-20 of 33 records found matching your query (RSS | history):

Home | Show All | Simple Search | Advanced Search

author [] Search

Select All Deselect All Search & Display options << 1 2 >> List View | Criteria | Details

Author	Title	Year	Publication	Volume	Pages	Links
<input type="checkbox"/> Adell, A.D., Miller, W.A., Harvey, D.J., Vanwormer, E., Wuerz, S., Conrad, P.A.	Individual subject meta-analysis of parameters for <i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i> shedding and diarrhoea in animal experimental models	2012	Epidemiology and Infection	Epublication ahead of print	1-17	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Andretta, I., Kipper, M., Lehnen, C.R., Hauschild, L., Vale, M.M., Lovatto, P.A.	Meta-analytical study of productive and nutritional interactions of mycotoxins in growing pigs	2012	Animal: an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1476-1482	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Averos, X., Brossard, L., Dourmad, J.Y., Greef, K.H. de, Edwards, S.A., Meunier-Salaun, M.C.	Meta-analysis on the effects of the physical environment, animal traits, feeder and feed characteristics on the feeding behaviour and performance of growing-finishing pigs	2012	Animal: an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1275-1289	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Averos, X., Brossard, L., Dourmad, J.Y., Greef, K.H. de, Edge, H.L., Edwards, S.A., Meunier-Salaun, M.C.	Quantitative assessment of the effects of space allowance, group size and floor characteristics on the lying behaviour of growing-finishing pigs	2010	Animal: an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	4	777-783	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Averos, X., Brossard, L., Dourmad, J.Y., Greef, K.H. de, Edge, H.L., Edwards, S.A., Meunier-Salaun, M.C.	A meta-analysis of the combined effect of housing and environmental enrichment characteristics on the behaviour and performance of pigs	2010	Applied Animal Behaviour Science	127	73-85	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Batorek, N., Candek-Potokar, M., Bonneau, M., Van Milgen, J.	Meta-analysis of the effect of immunocastration on production performance, reproductive organs and boar taint compounds in pigs	2012	Animal: an International Journal of Animal Bioscience	6	1330-1338	? →
<input type="checkbox"/> Clausen, J., Albrecht, H., Mathis, R.T.	Veterinary clinical research database for homeopathy: placebo-controlled trials	2013	Complementary Therapies in Medicine	21	115-120	? →

Enter your second term (e.g. dogs) in the **Search within Results** box that appears; you will need to choose which field to search from the drop down list on the left:

Search & Display Options

Search within Results:
author [] []
 Exclude matches **Search**

Display Options:
author [] **Show** **Hide**
20 records per page

If you want to “OR” terms (e.g. cats OR dogs), the vertical bar or “pipe” character | stands in for OR in the search box. Hence, cats|dogs entered into a search box translates as cats OR dogs. Note that on a UK keyboard the | character is usually to the left of the z.

☞ 14. Where can I get further information about using Refbase?

Information on the more advanced search and output functions in Refbase can be found in the online Refbase documentation:

<http://www.refbase.net/index.php/Documentation>

In addition, Washington State University have produced a help guide describing the main features of Refbase for users of their Animal Health Librarianship database:

http://refbase.wsulibs.wsu.edu/AHLLL/Begin_Refbase_Tutorial_AHLLL.pdf

If you have any queries that have not been answered by these resources, please contact us at cevm@nottingham.ac.uk.