



Centre for  
Evidence-based  
Veterinary Medicine  
at the University of Nottingham



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*CEVM Newsletter, Issue 34, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022*

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the  
Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM)

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm)



Please forward this e-mail on to any colleagues who you think may be interested — they can sign up for future newsletters using our mailing list: <http://lists.nottingham.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/cevm-mailing-list>

**Coming up in this issue:**

- News and updates
- Presentations
- Recent publications and outputs
- Spotlight on our research
- Latest BestBETs and systematic reviews from VetSRev

## News and updates:

### **CEVM winners of “Research Team Award for Most Supportive/Inclusive Research Environment” in University of Nottingham Tri-Campus awards**

In May, the CEVM team were delighted to be announced as winners of the Research Team Award for the most supportive/inclusive research environment in the University of Nottingham’s Tri Campus Awards. This award seeks to recognise a team of researchers at a range of career stages that have created an outstanding research environment. The picture at the top of the newsletter are our team representatives (L-R) Imogen, Freya, Natasha and Lisa receiving the award.

Congratulations to the whole team!



### **EBVM Manifesto: Making a roadmap for change II - meeting 29<sup>th</sup> June**

After a highly successful online meeting to discuss the EBVM manifesto on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the second meeting was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The international EBVM Manifesto was published in the Veterinary Record in 2020 (see the Manifesto here: <https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.m3409>). The purpose of the Manifesto was to start conversations about how we collectively drive the change that is needed to continue to make the veterinary profession as evidence based as it can be, positively impacting on our ability to provide good quality care for our clients and our patients.

Participants worked in small groups to discuss specific points of the manifesto – talking about who needs to be involved, what are the key first steps and how these can be achieved. The meeting was recorded and will be available online soon.

You can sign up to receive notifications about subsequent events here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EBVMmanifesto2022>

### **VetEd hosted by University of Nottingham’s Vet School 6-8<sup>th</sup> July**

The Veterinary Schools Council Veterinary Education Symposium (VetEd) is an annual international symposium that seeks to promote veterinary education and share innovation, ideas and best practice. It rotates around each of the veterinary schools in the UK. As with many conferences, it hasn’t run in

person since 2019 (Royal Veterinary College), having to be cancelled in 2020 and then was run online by the University of Surrey in 2021. This year the University of Nottingham are proudly playing host to the symposium using a hybrid in person and digital model, under the theme “Predicting pedagogy – What does veterinary education look like in the next 10 years?”. It covers three days, with a day of pre-conference workshops followed by two main days of the event. For more information including event schedule, check out <https://sway.office.com/B6e0NwuBidp46Dph>.

### **Update to Systematic Reviews for Animals and Food (SYREAF) website**

SYREAF are a research group based in the United States that seek to improve the utility of research in veterinary science, agriculture, and food production. They have recently updated their website which now offers a variety of valuable resources including reporting guidelines for animal studies and tools for critically appraising systematic reviews. Check it out at [https://syreaf.org/!](https://syreaf.org/)

### **Presentations:**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May, Marnie Brennan was invited to be part of a panel discussing animal systematic reviews during a symposium arranged by the Animal and Veterinary Information Specialist Caucus of the Medical Library Association (see the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-for-animal-systematic-reviews-registration-301056477027>). With panel members involved working in different aspects of animal and veterinary science, there were great discussions on evidence synthesis from different perspectives. We certainly learnt about some useful resources we didn't know about previously!

### **Up and coming presentations:**

During the **VetEd** conference (see news section for full details), there is a significant contribution from members of the CEVM team:

- Marnie will be running a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday morning entitled **“Veterinary education and knowledge exchange: what is it and what opportunities are there for you?”**
- Imogen Richens is co-facilitating a workshop on Friday morning entitled **“Outcomes based practical teaching in a clinically integrated curriculum”**.
- Davide Messina is presenting a poster exploring student perceptions of veterinary public health teaching before and during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Mickey McDermott will be presenting a short communication on Thursday afternoon entitled **“Pet-directed speech in veterinary consultations: An important communication skill?”**

On 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August, the 16<sup>th</sup> **International Symposium of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics**

**(ISVEE)** will be held in Halifax, Canada – more details at <https://venuewest.eventsair.com/isvee2022/>.

We have several members of the team contributing:

- Hannah Doit is presenting a poster entitled **“Longitudinal extraction of important outcomes from electronic patient records of cats with chronic kidney disease”** on her work utilising

data from veterinary practice management software systems to study research questions of importance to the veterinary profession.

- Lisa Morrow is presenting a talk entitled “**Assessment of the scientific evidence provided in veterinary marketing advertisements**” - doing exactly what it says in the title 😊!
- Marnie Brennan is presenting a talk entitled “**The value of joint vet-famer biosecurity discussions: Novel use of social interaction analyses**” outlining the use of novel methodologies to examine the significance of facilitating joint stakeholder discussions around farm biosecurity.
- Marnie Brennan and Lisa Morrow will be presenting with a panel of people as part of an ISVEE special session on teaching veterinary epidemiology on the Tuesday of the conference.

Please come and say hello if you are attending!

### **Recent publications and outputs:**

Gibson, J, White, K, Mossop, L, Oxtoby, C, Brennan, M. ‘**We’re gonna end up scared to do anything**’: **A qualitative exploration of how client complaints are experienced by UK veterinary practitioners.**

*Vet Rec.* 2022;e1737. <https://doi-org.nottingham.idm.oclc.org/10.1002/vetr.1737>

- This publication used interviews and focus groups to qualitatively explore how UK veterinary practitioners experience and respond to adverse events, such as client complaints. Complaints present a clear threat to practitioner mental health and workforce sustainability, as well as having implications for patient safety. The authors’ findings highlighted that mitigating the effects of complaints is a complex process, but fairness, transparency and timeliness of practice and regulatory complaint processes must be prioritised, along with provision of tailored support for individuals facing complaints.

Kuhl, CA, Lea, RG, Quarmby, C, Dean, R. **Scoping review to assess online information available to new dog owners.** *Vet Rec.* 2022;e1487. <https://doi-org.nottingham.idm.oclc.org/10.1002/vetr.1487>

- This review sought to assess the availability and quality indicators of information resources generated from Google searches that new dog owners would typically conduct. It found that most resources were easily understandable, but lacked supporting evidence or references, with many also lacking details of authors or date. This may make it challenging for owners to identify what information is trustworthy.

Kuhl CA, Dean R, Quarmby C, Lea RG. **Information sourcing by dog owners in the UK: Resource selection and perceptions of knowledge.** *Vet Rec.* 2022 May;190(10):e1081. doi: 10.1002/vetr.1081.

- This study used online questionnaires to explore the information resources used by dog owners and their perceptions of veterinary surgeons’ and dog breeders’ knowledge.

Palczynski, LJ, Bleach, EC, Brennan, ML and Robinson, PA (2022) **Youngstock management as “the key for everything”? Perceived value of calves and the role of calf performance monitoring and advice on dairy farms.** *Frontiers in Animal Science*, 3:835317, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fanim.2022.835317>

- Utilising interviews with dairy farmers and farm advisors in the UK, the researchers sought to explore the personal and contextual factors that influence calf management decisions on dairy farms. Their results showed that calves still tend to be marginalised on farms and are not accepted as an integral part of the productive herd. There was a tendency to be more reactive than proactive when approaching calf health and existing advisory structures are often failing to motivate changes of behaviour.

Robinson, N, Dean, R, Brennan, M and Belshaw, Z (2022) **The importance of preventative healthcare: what 10 years of research from the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine reveals.** UK Vet Companion Animal, 27: 11-15, <https://doi.org/10.12968/coan.2021.0052>

- This article summarises the work of the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine over the last 10 years and the research work that they have done in the area of preventative veterinary medicine. This work has culminated in the provision of practitioner-focused evidence-based guidance for use in clinical decision-making to help optimise animal care (which can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.104970>)

McDermott, MP, Cobb, MA, Robbé, IJ, Dean, RS. **The Dolittle factor: ‘Talking to the animals’ during veterinary consultations.** *Vet Rec.* 2022;e1380.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.1380>

- The aim of this study was to characterise ‘pet directed speech’ used in veterinary consultations via analysis of video transcripts. All consultations included some pet directed speech with the most common topics being ‘praise’, ‘small talk’ and ‘explanation’.

Finka LR. **Conspecific and Human Sociality in the Domestic Cat: Consideration of Proximate Mechanisms, Human Selection and Implications for Cat Welfare.** *Animals (Basel).* 2022 Jan 25;12(3):298. doi: 10.3390/ani12030298

- This review presents a summary of current knowledge on factors influencing domestic cats’ sociality and sociability towards both humans and conspecifics, particularly looking at cats managed by humans in confined environments.

### Spotlight on our research: Bader Alsubaie



I started my Masters in October 2021 with the CEVM under the supervision of Dr. Marco Duz. My project focuses on analysis and text mining of big data from equine practice focusing on equine colic. Since graduating as a vet in 2015, I worked for two years at the Fifth Company in Saudi Arabia for animal nutrition and production. Thereafter, I got a new job at King Faisal University as a teaching assistant in the Clinical Department, College of Veterinary Medicine. King Faisal University is sponsoring my Masters and all being well will support my PhD degree here at Nottingham.

‘Big Data Analytics’ refers to the process of collecting, organizing, and analysing large data from multiple sources, in the case of my study, electronic medical records from several equine hospitals. With my project I aim to identify risk factors for colic to help researchers and veterinarians to better understand the risk factors, and therefore improve diagnostic decisions and treatment. I live in Nottingham and have a lovely wife and small child who are the joy of my life.

## Latest BestBETs for Vets:

- **Length of *in situ* time of IV catheters and risk of phlebitis** <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/318>
  - Bottom Line:  
“At the present time there is no comparative peer reviewed evidence that answers the PICO question in this BET. Therefore, choice of technique should be based on the veterinary professional's preferred approach, individual practice guidelines and patient considerations.”
- **Do dental chews prevent dental calculus build up?** <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/577>
  - Bottom Line:  
“Non-rawhide dental chews appear to retard calculus build up, however, consistent and sometimes significant study design weaknesses across the 8 studies included in this BET make it difficult to draw definitive conclusions.”

## VetSRev:

VetSRev is a free database of systemic reviews relevant to veterinary medicine and science with new reviews added each month. In the last year or so the database has been offline and has undergone a complete renovation but is now back! The relaunched database can be found here: <https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk/> so please don't forget to update your links to the new site. We have over 2700 citations on our site now!

Recent systematic reviews that may be of interest to you:

- Abrams, B. E., Putterman, A. B., Ruple, A., Wavreille, V., & Selmic, L. E. (2021). **Variability in tumor margin reporting for soft tissue sarcoma and cutaneous mast cell tumors in dogs: A systematic review.** *Vet Surg*, 50(2), 259–272. <https://doi.org/10.1111/vsu.13539>
- Angeles-Hernandez, J. C., Miranda, M., Munoz-Benitez, A. L., Vieyra-Alberto, R., Morales-Aguilar, N., Paz, E. A., & Gonzalez-Ronquillo, M. (2021). **Zinc supplementation improves growth performance in small ruminants: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis.** *Animal Production Science*, 61(7), 621–629. <https://doi.org/10.1071/AN20628>
- Cleary, M., West, S., Thapa, D. K., Westman, M., Vesk, K., & Kornhaber, R. (2021). **Grieving the loss of a pet: A qualitative systematic review.** *Death Stud*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2021.1901799>
- Gozalo-Marcilla, M., & Ringer, S. K. (2021). **Recovery after general anaesthesia in adult horses: a structured summary of the literature.** *Animals*, 11(6). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11061777>

If you want to know more about VetSRev, have a look at our helpful guides 'About VetSRev' (<https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk/About-VetSRev.pdf>) and 'Getting Started with VetSRev' (<https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk/Getting-started-with-VetSRev.pdf>).

## **And finally:**

We would love to receive your input on what content you would like to see in our newsletter, on our Facebook page or our Twitter account. Let us know by email or on one of our social media pages.

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