Veterinary surgeons collect and process information about patients and diseases every day.

- This information is valuable evidence that could contribute to the veterinary knowledge base and further our understanding of many diseases.
- Currently only a small amount of this information is accessed or used for the purposes of veterinary research.

Veterinary surgeons are well placed to help generate the research questions which can drive practice-based research.

- These questions can direct researchers about what diseases are currently important to clinicians.
- This would ensure that studies are targeted towards the requirements of veterinary surgeons, and their clients and patients.
- This will potentially lead to the use of the most up-to-date knowledge in veterinary practice and ultimately, better patient care.

**Why is evidence-based veterinary medicine relevant to me?**

The Centre of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine aims to develop and promote the principles of evidence-based veterinary medicine in all aspects of the veterinary profession.

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**CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
Putting research into practice

Sponsored by  
NOVARTIS ANIMAL HEALTH
Evidence-based veterinary medicine is the use of relevant evidence in conjunction with clinical expertise, to make the best possible decision about a veterinary patient. The circumstances of each patient, and the circumstances and values of the owner/carer must also be considered when making an evidence-based decision.

- **Evidence:** This is the veterinary literature ranging from narrative expert opinion through to randomised-controlled trial data. It is crucial that this body of evidence is up-to-date and has been critically appraised.

- **Decision:** This could be about aetiology, diagnosis, treatment or prognosis.

- **Patient:** The patient could be any animal from a small animal in a consulting room, to a thoroughbred racehorse, to a herd of dairy cows to a rare exotic animal.

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM), sponsored by Novartis Animal Health, has recently been established at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at The University of Nottingham.

The purpose of CEVM is:

- to undertake research to answer questions generated by veterinarians that are important to clinical practice and animal health and welfare
- to disseminate the findings of this research to the veterinary profession to enhance the use of current evidence in clinical decision making.

The available evidence may be:

- limited in certain subject areas
- of poor quality and therefore questionable validity
- out-of-date

A clinician may not:

- have time to search the evidence available for each individual patient
- have access to all of the evidence available
- be able to keep up with the rate at which new evidence is being generated
- be equipped with the skills to critically appraise the evidence.

What is evidence-based veterinary medicine?

The principles of evidence-based veterinary medicine apply to veterinary surgeons, regardless of the discipline in which they work. In some instances, evidence-based veterinary medicine is already used in practice. However:

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine

Aren’t we already practicing evidence-based veterinary medicine?

Left to right: Dr Rachel Dean, Director of CEVM; Ruby the St. Bernard; Dr Marnie Brennan, Deputy Director of CEVM