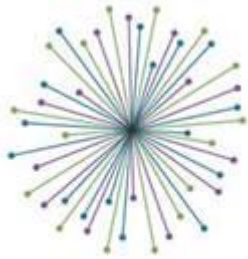


CEVM Newsletter
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The University of
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**CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE**
Putting research into practice

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter



The advisory group for the new BBSRC funded training programme



Veterinary and medical health informatics researchers following the launch of Farr@Vet in Manchester

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

New publications

[Belshaw, Z., Asher, L. and Dean, R.S. \(2016\) Systematic Review of Outcome Measures Reported in Clinical Canine Osteoarthritis Research. Veterinary Surgery, 45\(4\):480-487](#)

This paper has been published as part of Zoe Belshaw's PhD work.

[Ruston, A., Shortall, O., Green, M., Brennan, M.L., Wapenaar, W. and Kaler, J. \(2016\) Challenges facing the farm animal veterinary profession in England: A qualitative study of veterinarians' perceptions and responses. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, 127:84-93.](#)

This paper has been published as part of research funded by the CEVM, AHDB Dairy and the University of Nottingham.

BestBETs for Vets

Three new BETs have been added to our online database **BestBETs for Vets** (<http://bestbetsforvets.org>):

- Dogs with osteoarthritis- can you reduce the dose of meloxicam?
<https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/335>

- Oxytocin versus carbetocin administered to cows after uncomplicated calvings and subsequent fertility <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/27>
- Tramadol in addition to NSAIDs for canine osteoarthritis <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/387>


BETs (best evidence topics) are simple reviews of the current best evidence available to answer simple, common and specific clinical questions. They are designed to be a quick and achievable method of enabling the incorporation of evidence into clinical practice. BETs start with a very specific clinical question. A systematic literature search is then carried out to find available evidence. The relevant literature is critically appraised for quality and a “bottom line” (the answer to the question) is reached based on this evidence. BETs do not tell you what to do, they tell you about the evidence on a certain topic—the aim is to give an unbiased view of the evidence found.

VetSRev database

VetSRev (www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/vetsrev), our database of systematic reviews relevant to veterinary medicine and science, continues to grow as we search for newly published reviews each month. There are now 540 systematic reviews in the VetSRev database.

Examples of recently added reviews in VetSRev include:

- [Meta-analysis of progesterone supplementation during timed artificial insemination programs in dairy cows](#)
- [Systematic review of the prevalence, risk factors, diagnosis and management of meniscal injury in dogs: Part 2.](#)
- [Mange mite infestation in small ruminants in Ethiopia: Systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)
- [Best practice recommendations for prehospital veterinary care of dogs and cats.](#)
- [Prevalence of bovine trypanosomosis in Ethiopia: a meta-analysis.](#)
- [Epidemiology of Leptospirosis in Africa: A Systematic Review of a Neglected Zoonosis and a Paradigm for 'One Health' in Africa.](#)

You can keep up to date with newly published systematic reviews using our **RSS feed**. From the [VetSRev website](#) just click on the Feeds button  in your web browser. The RSS feed shows the most recently added reviews. If you subscribe to the RSS feed via your Feeds button, you will be alerted automatically every time a review is added.

To learn more about VetSRev take a look at our introductory guides [About VetSRev](#) and [Getting started with VetSRev](#).

Presentations by CEVM members

Two workshop days were held on the 1st and 25th April with dairy vets and farmers at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. The aim of these workshops was to discuss the findings from the work on biosecurity and vaccination that has been carried out over the past 4 years as part of funding from AHDB Dairy, The University of Nottingham and the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine. The discussion within and between the groups of vets and farmers was interesting and provided an unique insight into the importance of the vet-farmer relationship when discussing the use of disease prevention and control measures on farms.

Upcoming presentations

Zoe Belshaw will present a poster entitled "Owners searching the internet: Threat to vets or helping pets?" at the [Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science V](#) conference being held in York on the 23rd June 2016.

Kathryn Wareham will present a talk at [Evidence Live](#) in Oxford in June called 'Improving the quality of veterinary randomised controlled trials'.

Marnie Brennan will be presenting at the [Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists \(ANZCVS\) conference](#) (7th to 9th July) at the Gold Coast, Australia with a talk entitled 'The quantitative outcomes of a One Health approach to study complex health issues: A systematic review'.

Marnie will also be doing some training for the staff at the University of Sydney on evidence-based practice between 11th and 13th July, and will then talk at their [Partners in Veterinary Education \(PiVE\) practitioner conference](#) on the 14th and 15th July about evidence-based veterinary medicine.

Big Data

Rachel Dean attended a meeting on the 9th and 10th of March in Manchester to discuss Farr@Vet, a new initiative to harness veterinary electronic health data and build capacity in veterinary health informatics. Health informatics uses large volumes of anonymised electronic health data for research and surveillance. The meeting brought together researchers from all over the UK to discuss the potential rewards of linking human and animal data together to help achieve 'One Health' outcomes. The growing health informatics expertise in the UK, coupled with extremely supportive stakeholders, should see exciting new science originating in practice fed back to practitioners, and filling gaps in the clinical evidence-base.

CPD: Novel training opportunity for the veterinary profession

There is more awareness of the importance of evidence-based veterinary medicine within the veterinary profession, but currently there is little in-depth training on offer to help individuals integrate these principles into their practice.

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine has been successful with a funding bid from BBSRC to develop a modular training programme in evidence-based veterinary medicine for the veterinary profession. This unique programme has drawn from the experience of various experts across the veterinary field as part of an advisory group, chaired by Dr Ross Allan, who are helping to shape the training development. The idea is for the training to be developed for the veterinary profession, by the veterinary profession.

The first advisory board meeting was held in April where discussions focused on what the content of the course should be and how it can most effectively be delivered. Representatives from a wide range of sectors, across a variety of species groups and disciplines within the veterinary industry were present. This included practising veterinary surgeons, educational specialists and industrial representatives, ensuring the training will be relevant to, and accessible for, all members of the profession.

The training programme has 3 distinct components and will be delivered through a mixture of directed online learning, remote tutorials and in person workshops. The three components of the course are:

1. What is evidence-based veterinary medicine and why is it important?
2. How do I find and appraise the evidence?
3. How do I apply the evidence-based veterinary medicine approach to my practice?

The course is designed to facilitate individuals applying the skills and techniques into their own environments, providing efficient ways to keep up to date with new research and ultimately enhance clinical decision-making.

The CEVM are delighted to be able to offer a bursary for this course which covers the full registration costs for an individual veterinary surgeon to join either the course where enrolment opens the end of June or the middle of November. The bursary will be awarded to a unique individual with a passion for evidence-based veterinary medicine and who will use the knowledge gained on the course to make a difference to his/her personal development, practice or the profession.

If you are interested in applying for this bursary we need you to complete the [application form](#) by 15/06/16 and return it to cevm@nottingham.ac.uk Please do not hesitate to contact us on this email address if you would like to discuss this bursary further. Good luck, you have to be in it to win it!

For more details about the course click [here](#) or to book onto the course please click [here](#)

The CEVM Team

This month we say a sad goodbye to Imogen Richens. Imogen has been a valuable member of the CEVM – first completing her PhD on cattle vaccinations, and then going on to undertake post-doctoral studies looking at the use of disease prevention and control measures on dairy farms, and what farmer's opinions are about disease prevention and control measures. Imogen has been a great team member, and not only for her cake baking skills! We wish Imogen well in her new adventures as a Teaching Fellow in Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Bristol.

We welcome Louise Corah to the team. Louise has just started a PhD looking at what defines a good consultation and how to measure it. Louise graduated in July 2012 from the University of Nottingham and worked in a variety of small animal practices prior to joining the team.



Spotlight on our research

This month Research Fellow Natalie Robinson writes about her research on preventative healthcare consultations in small animal practice.

I am currently a Research Fellow in Veterinary Practice-based Research, having completed my PhD with the CEVM in 2014. My PhD involved direct observation of first opinion small animal consultations, to identify common clinical presentations and conditions in order to direct future research. Over a third of the consultations I observed were preventative healthcare consultations, where the patient was presented for a vaccination, or another aspect of preventative healthcare. These consultations appeared to be highly complex, often involving the discussion of many different

aspects of preventative healthcare, as well as the opportunity to detect and manage new and ongoing health problems. Given this, I think these consultations have many potential benefits to patient health and welfare, and so my current research involves identifying ways in which these benefits can be maximised.

At present, I am conducting a review of the literature to explore the current evidence base for preventative healthcare consultations. I am also developing a survey for practicing veterinary surgeons, to find out what they currently do during these consultations, and identify any interventions which they think may be useful. Thirdly, I will be conducting in-depth interviews with veterinary surgeons and pet owners, to understand their expectations and experiences of preventative healthcare consultations. Ultimately the aim of this project will be to develop a tool that can be used by veterinary surgeons during preventative healthcare consultations to enhance patient care. Having worked in practice myself prior to starting my PhD, one of the most important things for me is ensuring that we produce something which is useful and practical to implement in a first opinion practice setting. This is where the input of practicing veterinary surgeons and pet owners into this project will be hugely valuable. We are planning to have some preliminary results from the initial stages of the study ready by September 2016.

If you would like to take part in the survey once it is launched, would be interested in taking part in the interviews, or would like any further information on the project, please email Natalie.Robinson@nottingham.ac.uk

Find out more about the CEVM

To find out more, take a look at the CEVM website (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/index.aspx>).

You can also join our mailing list to keep you informed of future developments (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/contact-us/mailing-list.aspx>).

If you would like to get involved with any of the CEVM's projects or have any questions about our work, please e-mail us at cevm@nottingham.ac.uk.

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