

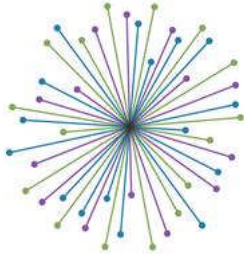
*CEVM Newsletter*

*Issue 3, May 2014*



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

## **Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter**



Welcome to the third Newsletter from the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM), [www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm), which updates you on the CEVM's current activities. We are producing regular newsletters to keep you informed of the work of the 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 CEVM publications**

### Survey of the UK veterinary profession: Common species and conditions nominated by veterinarians in practice

Nielsen TD, Dean RS, Robinson NJ, Massey A and Brennan ML.  
*Veterinary Record* 2014;**174**:324 doi:10.1136/vr.101745  
<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/174/13/324> (OPEN ACCESS)

Veterinarians play an important role in identifying relevant questions for research. The questions raised often relate to the common complaints and conditions seen in practice. This study used a survey of UK veterinarians to identify the conditions or complaints that they perceive they see commonly. It also assessed how much information they feel there is available on these conditions in the literature.

The most commonly seen species were reported to be dogs, cats and rabbits, followed by equines and cattle. Skin conditions were most commonly mentioned for small animals, musculoskeletal conditions for equines and reproduction conditions for production animals. There was a perception that there was more published information available for certain species than for others.

This study provides important baseline information on what veterinarians see in practice, and should help to prioritise future research that is targeted towards their needs.

### A critically appraised topic (CAT) to compare the effects of single and multi-cat housing on physiological and behavioural measures of stress in domestic cats in confined environments

Finka LR, Ellis SLH, Stavisky J.  
*BMC Veterinary Research* 2014;**10**:73. doi:10.1186/1746-6148-10-73  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/10/73> (OPEN ACCESS)

This study originated in a request from International Cat Care to generate guidelines on housing cats in rescue shelters. It was carried out in collaboration with Lauren Finka and Sarah Ellis at the University of Lincoln School of Life Sciences.

There is controversy over whether it is more stressful to house cats singly or in groups. The aim of the study was to review all of the available evidence on this subject using a Critically Appraised Topic (CAT) format. MEDLINE, CAB Abstracts and Zoological Record were searched. Papers were filtered according to pre-defined relevance criteria and then critically appraised.

Key findings:

- In some studies single housing was less stressful, whilst in others group housing was less stressful. However, conclusions were confounded by comparisons such as barren single housing versus enriched group housing.
- Overall the evidence suggests that in cats without prior socialisation to other cats, group housing may be the more stressful option.
- The results suggest that other factors such as environmental enrichment and presence of sufficient resources may be important in ameliorating stress.

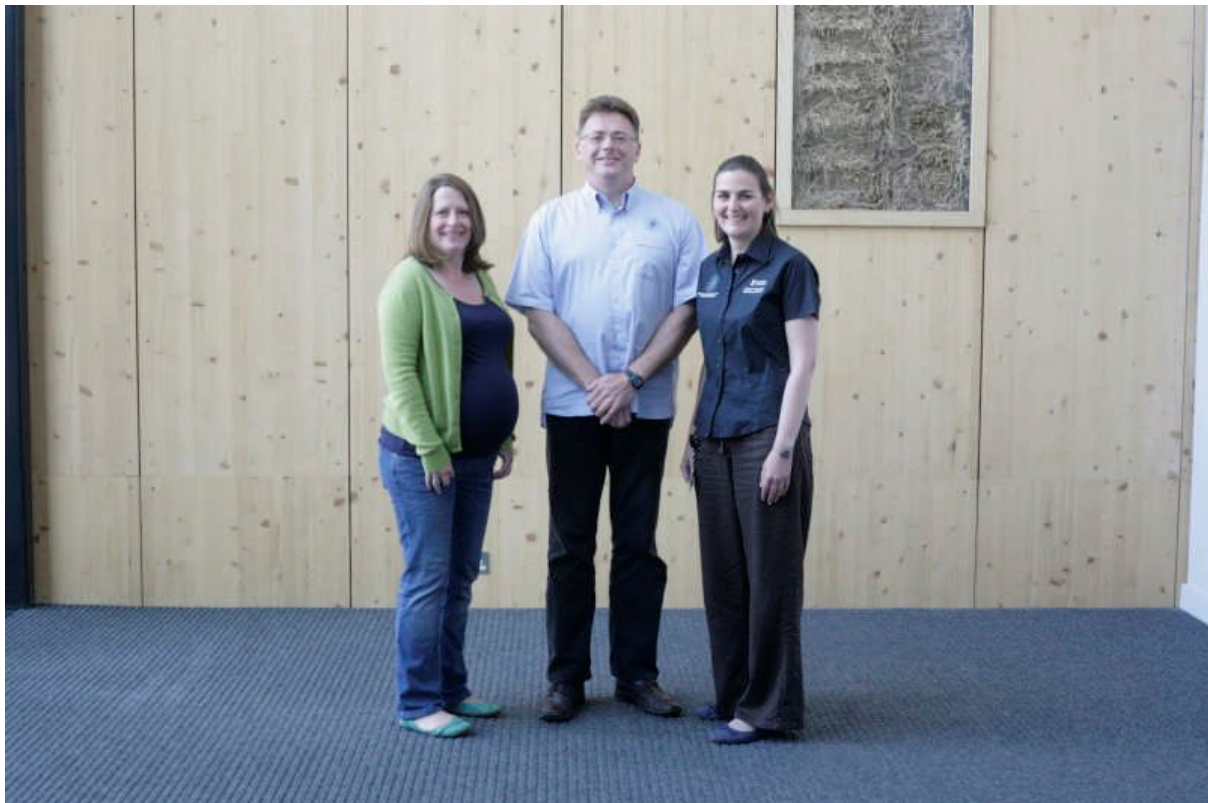
Douglas Grindlay, Rachel Dean and Marnie Brennan on reporting guidelines in vet research

*Biome*, 12th February 2014

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/biome/douglas-grindlay-rachel-dean-and-marnie-brennan-on-the-awareness-of-reporting-guidelines-in-veterinary-research/>

To mark the publication in January in *BMC Veterinary Research* of our [survey of veterinary journal Editors-in-Chief about reporting guidelines](#), BioMed Central (BMC) commissioned an [author question and answer article](#) about the study and its implications for the publishing of research in veterinary journals. We hope it will further help to increase awareness of reporting guidelines in the veterinary research community – do take a look.

The study itself was the most viewed article in *BMC Veterinary Research* for several weeks after its publication, and was chosen as an Editor's Pick as well as being included in BMC's *Highlights for January*.



*Rachel, Douglas and Marnie*

## BestBETs for Vets

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


- Benazepril in cats with chronic renal failure: <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/174>
- Carprofen in dairy cattle with toxic mastitis: <http://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/156>
- Ketoprofen in calves undergoing surgical castration and future performance: <http://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/171>

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 done 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](http://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. At the time of writing it contains 379 reviews.

Examples of recently added records in VetSRev include reviews on reverse zoonotic disease transmission, zoonosis risk from animals in pet shops, regional variation in the prevalence of E. coli O157 in cattle, animal welfare in the global wildlife trade and web-based communication curricula in veterinary education.

You can keep up to date with newly published systematic reviews using our RSS feed. From the VetSRev home page, just click on "Show All" towards the top left, then click on the "RSS" link at the top of the display. Alternatively, click on the Feeds button  in your web browser. The RSS feed shows the 20 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**

### BSAVA Congress

Three CEVM staff spoke at the [BSAVA Congress](#) held in Birmingham from 3rd to 6th April 2014.

**Rachel Dean** presented in the Veterinary Programme on "The practicalities and delivery of questionnaire-based research". This was an interactive session with plenty of time for questions and comments.

**Natalie Robinson** gave a talk called "The 10 minute consultation: is it realistic?", while **Christina Kuhl** spoke on "Who do owners ask for advice about their dogs?". Christina also had a poster in the poster presentation session called "What do you think you know about dog breeding? Vets, breeders and owners perceptions of both their own and each other's knowledge". **Julie Jones-Diette** had a poster called "How complete are electronic patient records in veterinary practice?", about a comparison of direct observation of consultations versus computerised records.

### International Association of Veterinary Editors

**Douglas Grindlay** will be speaking at the [Annual Meeting of the International Association of Veterinary Editors](#) (IAVE) in Split, Croatia on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, following the publication of the results of our [survey of veterinary journal Editors-in-Chief about reporting guidelines](#). The talk is part of a session on peer review and is entitled "Reporting guidelines in Veterinary Journals: how are they used now and can they inform the peer review process?"

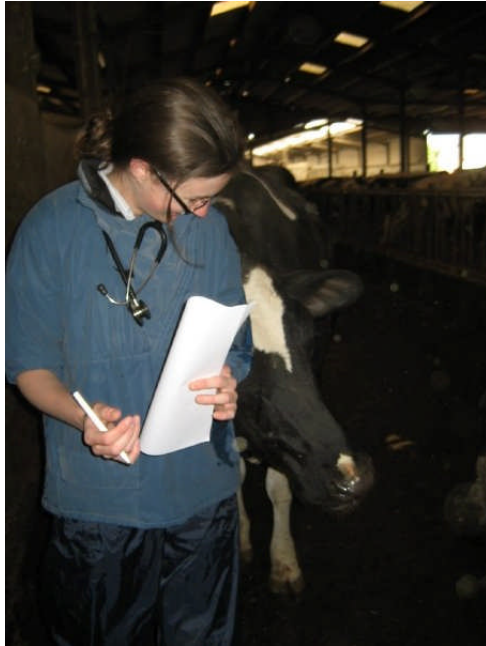
### BSAVA South West

**Rachel Dean** is giving a talk for the BSAVA South West Region on "[Veterinary Evidence: How do I find it and is it any good?](#)" on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Bristol. The talk is being held at the RSPCA Bristol Clinic.

## Spotlight on our research



This month **Imogen Richens** describes her PhD project on vaccination strategies on British dairy farms...



I am about to finish the second year of my PhD investigating the **motivators and barriers to implementing vaccination strategies on British dairy farms**. My project is funded by DairyCo, the CEVM and the University of Nottingham and is part of a wider set of projects funded by DairyCo across the country looking at dairy cow health and welfare.

There are a number of bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases that cattle can be vaccinated against, but there are currently no national cattle vaccination schemes in Britain. In the end it is up to the farmer to make the decision as to which, if any, vaccines to use. There has been a small amount of work looking into what and how many vaccines are used and how they are administered by British cattle farmers, but very limited research looking into why they decided to use, or not use, vaccines in the first place.

It is important to understand people's attitudes in order to be able to understand the decisions they make. Taking this on board, in the first part of my PhD I have been travelling around Britain interviewing a variety of dairy farmers about their experiences of using vaccinations in their cattle.

For the second part of my PhD I am currently conducting interviews with farm and mixed animal veterinary surgeons about their experiences with dairy cattle vaccination.

The data from these interviews will be combined and analysed to identify the motivators and barriers to implementing vaccination strategies on dairy farms, with an eventual aim of drawing up best practice guidelines that are relevant, applicable and practical to all stakeholders in the dairy industry.

The qualitative nature of my PhD is a fairly novel approach in veterinary research and I am enjoying the challenge of being at the forefront of something new.

### Find out more about the CEVM

To find out more, take a look at the [CEVM website](#).

You can also join our [mailing list](#) to keep you informed of future developments.

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](mailto:cevm@nottingham.ac.uk).

Follow us on Twitter: [@CEVetM](#)