



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

### Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter



*Natalie Robinson, one of the first two PhD students in the CEVM, was awarded her PhD at the graduation ceremony held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014. She is pictured here with Malcolm Cobb, Marnie Brennan and Rachel Dean.*

Welcome to the fourth 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 publication**

### Evidence-based veterinary medicine: How you can get involved

Brennan ML.

*Cattle Practice* 2014;**22**(1):57-60

This paper briefly outlines the steps of evidence-based veterinary medicine, and is a summary of a workshop given at the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) Congress in 2012.

## **Prioritising research in chronic kidney disease (CKD) in cats**

As part of her MSc in Evidence-Based Healthcare, Rachel Dean is carrying out a research project to identify the research priorities of cat owners and veterinary surgeons in relation to treating chronic kidney disease (CKD). The first step of the research is a short (5 minute) online survey that we need vets and cat owners with experience of CKD to complete. So if you treat cats with CKD, or if you currently own, or have previously owned, an affected cat, then please complete the survey. If you are in small animal practice, please can you also make your cat clients aware of the study and encourage them to take part, as we need the views of cat owners.

To access the survey via our website please follow this link:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/practice-based-research/small-animal/chronic-kidney-disease-in-cats.aspx>

## **BestBETs for Vets**

Two new BETs have been added to our online database **BestBETs for Vets**

(<http://bestbetsforvets.org>):

- Formalin versus copper sulphate footbath for digital dermatitis in dairy cattle  
<https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/31>
- Antibiotics in dogs with kennel cough <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/166>

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 beginning of August, VetSRev passed the important milestone of **400 systematic reviews** in the database.

Examples of recently added records in VetSRev include reviews on surgical treatments for canine hip dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament disease in dogs, prophylactic control measures for canine leishmaniasis, foot-and-mouth disease in wild ungulates, probiotics and broiler growth, diagnostic tests for reproductive-tract infection and inflammation in dairy cows, and the effects of castration on carcass and meat quality in sheep.

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](#).

## People

Congratulations to **Christina Kuhl** who has passed the viva for her PhD entitled “Pedigree dog welfare in the UK: a consumer driven market or something more complex?”. Tina took time out from her undergraduate veterinary course at Nottingham to do a three year intercalated PhD with the CEVM, the first ever student to do an intercalated PhD in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. Tina has now returned to undertake the final two years of her veterinary training, but will be continuing to work with us over this time.

## Presentations by CEVM members

### International Association of Veterinary Editors

**Douglas Grindlay** spoke 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, entitled “Reporting guidelines in veterinary journals: how are they used now and can they inform the peer review process?”, created a lot of interest and discussion among the editors present, and will hopefully encourage wider use of reporting guidelines.

### Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) conference

**Zoe Belshaw** presented a poster entitled “Peer reviewed canine quality of life tools: are they of good quality?” at the [Universities Federation for Animal Welfare \(UFAW\) Conference](#) in York on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) student conference

Each year the SPVS organises a student conference covering a wide range of relevant topics for final year students who are thinking towards life after vet school. This year the event was held in Lancaster from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July 2014. **Marnie Brennan** spoke about being a vet in academia, including opportunities for vets in practice to get involved in research that the CEVM is doing. For more details please see <http://lancaster.spvs.org.uk/>.

### Eleventh Equine Colic Research Symposium

**Laila Curtis** had three oral presentations at the [Eleventh Equine Colic Research Symposium](#) hosted by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and held in Dublin on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The first two talks were about a prospective study of primary assessment of equine colic. A 4th year veterinary student, Thomas Bayes, presented on the study population and case presentation, and Laila spoke on diagnostic approach, decision-making and outcomes. The third presentation was on a prospective survey of veterinary practitioners’ primary assessment of equine colic, describing clinical signs, diagnoses, and treatment of 120 cases of large colon impaction. Laila also had a poster about a systematic review of risk factors for colic.

### World Buiatrics Congress 2014

**Imogen Richens** gave a talk at the [World Buiatrics Congress 2014](#) held on 27<sup>th</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 in Cairns, Australia. The presentation was called “The role of the veterinary surgeon, as perceived by the farmer, in the implementation of vaccination strategies on British dairy farms”. Buiatrics is the study of cattle and their diseases, and this is the foremost international conference in this area of research.

### Converting dermatologists to EVM and feline medicine

**Rachel Dean** is speaking at the 27th Annual Congress of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology and the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology being held from 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September. Rachel is speaking about evidence-based veterinary medicine in the advanced session and is also speaking about feline internal medicine and feline endocrinopathies in the practitioner stream. For more information or to register for the conference go to: <http://www.esvd-ecvdcongress.com/Annual Congress of the ESVD-ECVD>

## Spotlight on our research



This month **Natalie Robinson** describes research on the caseload of consultations in small animal practice...



I recently completed my PhD with the Centre and I am now a Research Fellow in Veterinary Practice-based Research. I was one of the first two PhD students in the CEVM, so it was really exciting being part of something new. Having previously worked in practice myself, it was also important to me that I was involved in a project directly relevant to first opinion practitioners.

My PhD thesis was entitled “Use of sentinel practices to obtain data regarding common clinical conditions and presentations in small animal consultations”. Little is currently

known about the caseload of first opinion practitioners and understanding this further will enable us to formulate future research priorities which are relevant to practitioners. The project involved collection of detailed data from first opinion small animal consultations using a direct observation method. Data collected included the signalment of patients presented, the types of problems discussed, the diagnoses made and the actions taken during these consultations.

As a Research Fellow, I am now continuing this work by conducting further analyses of the dataset, including some multi-level modelling to account for clustering of the data. I am also working on various publications so that the key findings from the project can be communicated back to the veterinary profession. This is an important aspect of evidence-based veterinary medicine, so we have also conducted feedback sessions directly with the practices involved.

The next steps following on from my PhD project will involve selecting two specific topic areas and formulating a list of focused, relevant research priorities in these areas. This will involve examining the current literature to identify gaps in the evidence and working with practitioners to answer the questions which are most important to them.

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

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