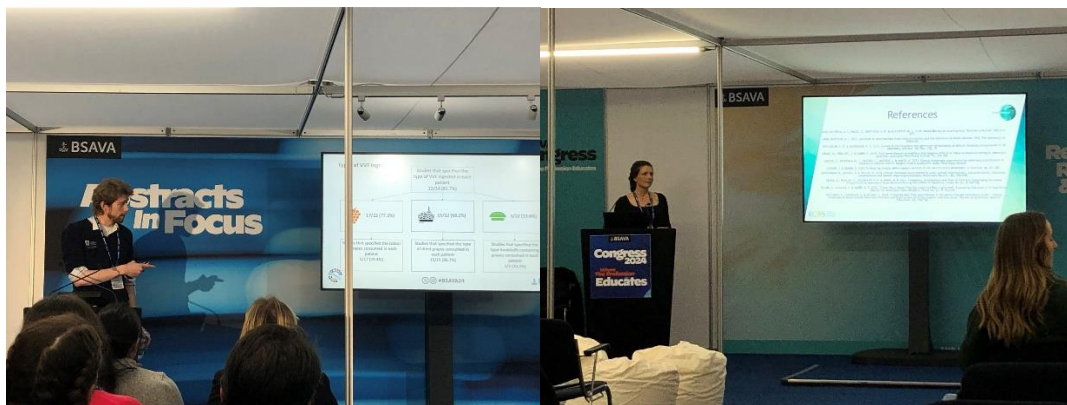


CEVM Newsletter, Issue 40, 27 March 2024

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: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/contact-us/mailling-list.aspx>

Coming up in this issue:

- News and updates
- Presentations
- Recent publications and outputs
- Spotlight piece
- Latest BestBETs and systematic reviews from VetSRev

News and updates:

Visit from EAEVE

In mid-January, the School received an accreditation visit from the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE; <https://www.eaeve.org/>), an organisation focused on driving minimum standards across veterinary education establishments around Europe. We have

been successful at maintaining the appropriate standards, with the visiting panel being very pleased with what we are doing and have achieved to date, well done SVMS!

Bitten by the research ‘bug’

Earlier this year, we welcomed Joshua Downs into the CEVM team. As a third-year vet student he enjoyed his research project and subsequently decided to enrol on an intercalated Master’s program, looking at grape toxicity in dogs, which started in February 2023. Having had a productive year Joshua has successfully secured funding from the University of Nottingham to convert his Masters project into a PhD – congratulations Joshua and we’re looking forward to you being a valued member of the CEVM team for many years to come!

New member of the team

We have been recruiting for a new postdoctoral member of staff to carry out work we are involved in as part of the EU funded Horizon project entitled Biosecure (<https://biosecure.eu/>). This project is focused on enhancing the biosecurity undertaken in livestock production across a number of different European countries. We look forward to sharing more information about our new colleague very soon!

Presentations:

Veterinary Human Factors Conference – 22nd – 23rd February 2024 - Online

- Freya Rooke presented a lecture on Thursday 22nd February entitled “QI methods in the veterinary sector”.

British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) conference 21st - 23rd March Manchester UK

- Julie Gibson participated in a number of sessions at this conference. On Thursday, she spoke in the wellbeing zone – giving an introduction to Moral Stress and Injury 101, followed by participating in a panel discussion around ethical conversations.
- Joshua Downs presented a clinical research abstract on Thursday focused on the scoping review he has carried out on grape and raisin toxicity in dogs.

Recent publications and outputs:

K. Scahill, L.R. Jessen, C. Prior, D. Singleton, F. Foroutan, A.A. Ferran, C. Arenas, C.R. Bjørnvad, E. Lavy, F. Allerton, J.S. Weese, K. Allenspach, L. Guardabassi, S. Unterer, T. Bodnárová, U. Windahl, M.L. Brennan, M. Werner, (2024) **Efficacy of antimicrobial and nutraceutical treatment for canine acute diarrhoea: A systematic review and meta-analysis for European Network for Optimization of Antimicrobial Therapy (ENOVAT) guidelines**, The Veterinary Journal, Volume 303, 106054, ISSN 1090-0233, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2023.106054>

- To guide the development of evidence-based treatment guidelines, the authors conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the data on antimicrobial and nutraceutical use in canine acute diarrhoea.

Bruce, H and Brennan, M (2023) **Does an endotracheal tube or a v-gel result in better controlled ventilation in anaesthetised rabbits?** Veterinary Record, 193(8): 326-327

- This literature review sought to inform clinicians on what evidence was available to decide between an endotracheal tube or a v-gel to provide ventilation to anaesthetised rabbits.

White C, Basham N, Floyd S, Morrow L, Dean RS, Brennan ML. (2024) **Cross-sectional survey of sources of information accompanying veterinary product advertisements in two professional print publications.** *Vet Rec*; e3902. <https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.3902>

- By examining advertisements in veterinary periodicals, the authors sought to characterise the evidence provided to veterinary professionals in marketing features by the manufacturers of prescribed products, tests or devices.

Spotlight on our research: Freya Rooke – Research Fellow



Since completing my PhD examining the use of quality improvement methods in 2023, I have commenced a position as a research fellow working in collaboration with World Horse Welfare. This project is examining the validity of a brand-new welfare assessment tool designed by world horse welfare and currently used in several countries across the world.

The World Horse Welfare International team have developed a welfare assessment tool to evaluate the health and welfare of working equids.

Working equids have an essential role in the communities and economics of many countries. The environments and conditions that they live and work in are often challenging and can impact their health and welfare; poor health and welfare not only impacts the equids themselves but also the communities that rely on them. There are several different groups and researchers contributing to working equid health and welfare, but consensus on welfare issues, best approaches and the impact of interventions is difficult due to variability in how data is gathered. The current evidence and publications use a range of different data gathering and assessment methods which means that information cannot be pooled and compared.

The aim of this project is to evaluate, refine and validate the current welfare assessment tool designed by World Horse Welfare. This has multiple applications for equine welfare, where the tool can evaluate a horse's current situation, can guide informed treatment and management decisions, and evaluate the effects of interventions. For groups or populations of horses, tools like this can highlight any shared welfare concerns to which appropriate support can be directed and allow evaluation of the wider implications of management and treatment strategies and provide clarity in discussions between working equid communities and stakeholders.

This will be achieved through five phases, involving an assessment of the evidence base, a review of how the tool has worked so far, and conducting interviews or focus groups with World Horse Welfare staff / collaborators who have been using the tool. The fourth phase will determine the interobserver variability and intraobserver reliability of the final version of the tool. The final phase of the study will be to disseminate the findings through open access publications, and work with World Horse Welfare to release the final welfare assessment to the working equid communities and stakeholders.

Latest BestBETs for Vets:

- **Firocoxib in comparison to flunixin meglumine in post-operative colic patients - a good analgesic?** <https://www.bestbetsforvets.org/bet/590>
 - Bottom Line:
 - “There is strong evidence to suggest that in horses with strangulating lesions of the small intestine, both flunixin meglumine and firocoxib provide similar levels of analgesia post-operatively.”
- **Right versus left lateral recumbent radiographs for assessment of the cardiac silhouette in dogs** <https://www.bestbetsforvets.org/bet/172>
 - Bottom line:
 - “There is currently no evidence on whether left or right lateral recumbency is superior for detecting radiographic changes in heart size and shape in dogs affected by cardiac disease. However, there are some, likely clinically insignificant, differences in the appearance of the cardiac silhouette of healthy dogs, so it might be prudent to routinely use one particular lateral projection when assessing heart size and shape, particularly when monitoring a patient over time.”

VetSRev:

VetSRev is a free database of systemic reviews relevant to veterinary medicine and science with new reviews added each month. The database can be found here: <https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk/>. We have over 3100 citations on our site now, and more will be added very soon.

Systematic reviews which may be of interest to you:

- Risely, A., Klaassen, M., & Hoye, B. J. (2018). **Migratory animals feel the cost of getting sick: A meta-analysis across species.** *J Anim Ecol*, 87(1), 301–314. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.12766>
- McMullen, C. K., Sargeant, J. M., Kelton, D. F., Churchill, K. J., Cousins, K. S., & Winder, C. B. (2021). **Modifiable management practices to improve udder health in dairy cattle during the dry period and early lactation: a scoping review.** *Journal of Dairy Science*, 104(9), 10143–10157. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2020-19873>
- Meyer, J. C., Hunyadi, L. M., & Ordóñez-Mena, J. M. (2021). **The accuracy of ACTH as a biomarker for Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction in horses: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Equine Vet J*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/evj.13500>

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:

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