Welcome to the latest newsletter from the

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM)

www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm

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Coming up in this issue:

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

News and updates:

Welcome to our new starter!

We have a new Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Associate who will be working with us and RCVS Knowledge to develop and integrate a [quality improvement model](#) for application into the veterinary sector over the coming years. Welcome to Julie Cayzer who started this week 😊 . Watch this space for more information coming about our plans.

A new project begins

The 1st of December 2025 saw the start of a new European research consortia involving researchers within the CEVM – [Bioframe](#). The focus of this initiative is to develop an adaptable biosecurity improvement framework for non-intensive farming systems with relevant stakeholders (farmers, vets) at its core, helping to create a framework that is comprehensive yet practical.

Recent publications and outputs:

Martello, E., Morrow, L., Moberly, H., Grindlay, D., & Brennan, M. (2025). **Enhancing veterinary systematic and scoping reviews reporting for better identification and dissemination in VetSRev.** Veterinary Evidence, 10(4). https://doi.org/10.18849/ve.v10i4.721
- High-quality systematic and scoping reviews are essential for evidence-based veterinary practice, improving clinical decisions, animal welfare, and research prioritization. The paper promotes the VetSRev repository and urges authors to follow reporting guidelines like PRISMA to ensure transparency and inclusion.

Russell E, Cathcart E, Gibson J, Schortz L, Silver-MacMahon H, Auden C, Jones R, Oxtoby C, Tallini E, Mossop L. **Visualising veterinary patient safety-A modified Delphi study.** Vet Rec. 2025 Oct 16:e5663. doi: 10.1002/vetr.5663. Epub ahead of print.
- This study used a consensus approach with the Veterinary Patient Safety Network to create a visual that explains key concepts of veterinary patient safety, linking familiar ideas like non-technical skills with less-known ones such as Safety I vs Safety II. The resulting visual highlights the interdependence of these concepts and aims to help professionals connect well-understood topics with emerging approaches to improve safety and quality.

Morgane J.R. Van Belle, Noema Gajdoš Kmecová, Christel P.H. Moons, Frank A.M. Tuyttens, Daniel S. Mills, **Development of the Ethogram of Feline Social Interactions (EFSI) to study intraspecific interactions between cats in multicat households,** Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Volume 293, 2025, 106862, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2025.106862
- The study developed the Ethogram of Feline Social Interactions (EFSI) to systematically record social behaviours in multicat households, using expert consensus and reliability testing to ensure validity. EFSI includes 23 behaviours across four groups and demonstrated strong observer reliability, providing a practical tool for researchers, veterinary behaviourists, and caregivers to monitor feline social dynamics and tension. Researchers are hoping that it will be used not only for cat observational research, but also by clinicians and even cat caregivers, as it provides detailed, yet not very technical descriptions of cat interactive behaviours, accompanied by helpful illustrations.

Dogusan MM, De Carvalho Ferreira HC, Moya Durán SJ, Moskalenko L, <u>Brennan ML</u>, De Meneghi D, Rodrigues Da Costa M, Ciaravino G, Gaspar R. **Behavioural drivers of on-farm biosecurity implementation in livestock: A literature overview with insights for research.** Prev Vet Med. 2025 Dec 18;248:106768. doi: 10.1016/j.prevetmed.2025.106768. Epub ahead of print.

- Global livestock intensification increases disease risks, yet biosecurity measures are inconsistently adopted due to poorly understood behavioural drivers. This systematic review, guided by COM-B and TDF frameworks, found significant evidence gaps—particularly in understudied regions, stakeholder groups, and behavioural domains—highlighting the need for targeted research to improve biosecurity implementation worldwide.

Spotlight on our research: Research Fellow in Feline Welfare - Noema Gajdoš-Kmecová

Following my childhood dream, in 2016 I graduated as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (Slovakia), and in 2021 I obtained my PhD there. My postgraduate research was about "behavioural problems" in domestic cats, with part of it focusing on social play and how to distinguish it from agonistic interaction – a common issue for many cat caregivers, but professionals too. I dared to study this by behavioural observations of cat videos, including kittens and adult cats, making it the first study of its kind. The task was big but I was lucky to be able to carry it out in collaboration with Prof. Daniel Mills and other experts from University of Lincoln (UK), and we ended up with pretty interesting results. We provided the first observational evidence that inter-cat interactions are not an "either-or" matter. We think that they lie on the spectrum between mutual social play, during which cats are not vocalising and spend most of the time wrestling, and agonism, which includes a lot of vocalisation and long inactive breaks.

After my PhD, I was able to continue in my cat-oriented research within a postdoc position at my alma mater. I have started a collaboration with the University of Ghent (Belgium) as a PhD supervisor of Morgane Van Belle, with the project focusing on dynamics of social interactions in domestic cats.

I believe that cat research has a great public engagement potential, so in my free time I am trying to apply its findings by sharing latest scientific findings about cats with Slovak cat lovers, via the first Slovak podcast about cats called "Mačkast®" (mačka = cat). https://www.instagram.com/mackast_podcast/.

Since this is a spotlight piece, there is no other way to finish than redirecting it to those who have been centre of my career universe ever since – cats. And especially my feline collaborators Viki and Amálka (pictured), who have tutored me on feline welfare for 11 years now. The decision to move countries without them says a lot about my new research role with the CEVM. The project is about rethinking the ways we approach cat wellbeing, by reviewing the evidence, and consulting stakeholders involved with cats on every level, about different aspects of cats, their lifestyle and environment. It is about people, but the key stakeholder is the cat, which requires a novel comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach.

Latest BestBETs for Vets:

Our free online database "BestBETs for Vets" covers cats, dogs, cattle, sheep, horses, poultry and rabbits. You can find out more, subscribe to BET updates or submit a question here https://bestbetsforvets.org/contact:

Is Mycoplasma bovis vaccination effective at reducing respiratory signs in calves? - https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/597
- In [calves at risk of respiratory *Mycoplasma bovis* infection] does [vaccination vs. no vaccination] reduce [clinical signs of disease]?
  - **Bottom Line:** The evidence found here suggests that *Mycoplasma bovis* vaccination could reduce clinical signs of respiratory disease in calves, but compelling published evidence for efficacy is still lacking.

Risk of IMHA in vaccinated dogs – New evidence added - https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/599
- In [dogs] does [recent vaccination] [increase the risk of immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia]?
  - **Bottom Line:** There is still a lack of evidence on whether recent vaccination increases the risk of immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia.

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:

- Wootton, N., Sarakinis, K., Varea, R., Reis-Santos, P., & Gillanders, B. M. (2022). **Microplastic in oysters: a review of global trends and comparison to southern Australia**. *Chemosphere*, *307*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.136065

- Adami, C., & Spadavecchia, C. (2020). **Use of nociceptive threshold testing in cats in experimental and clinical settings: a qualitative review**. *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia*, *47*(4), 419–436. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaa.2019.12.009

- McGlone, J. J., Borell, E. H. von, Deen, J., Johnson, A. K., Levis, D. G., Meunier-Salaun, M., Morrow, J., Reeves, D., Salak-Johnson, J. L., & Sundberg, P. L. (2004). **Compilation of the scientific literature comparing housing systems for gestating sows and gilts using measures of physiology, behaviour, performance, and health**. *Professional Animal Scientist*, *20*(2), 105–117. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15232/S1080-7446(15)31285-7

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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