

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter



The CEVM team at Twycross Zoo for a team building day in January 2015.

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

CEVM team building (see photo above)

On a cold and frosty day in January the CEVM had a team building day at Twycross Zoo (www.twycrooszoo.org). The focus of the day was identifying all of the different products and outputs the CEVM have and how best to market them to the people who may find them useful. Paul Hunt, the UK Strategic Account Manager from The North Face (www.thenorthface.co.uk) and Alison Lambert the CEO from OnSwitch (www.onswitch.co.uk) facilitated the day and led healthy discussions around selling, marketing and identifying customers. The CEVM team learnt a lot and have come up with some great ideas on how to promote ourselves and our activities. In the breaks we had coffee with the snow leopards, lunch with the monkeys and afternoon tea with the lorikeets. Thank you to Twycross zoo for hosting us and Alison and Paul for their expertise and the entertainment.

New Publications

Three more papers have been published from a study carried out by one of the CEVM's first PhD students, Natalie Robinson. The study used direct observation to collect detailed data from first opinion small animal consultations:

- [Diagnostic testing in first opinion small animal consultations](#)
Robinson NJ, Dean RS, Cobb M, Brennan ML.
Vet Rec. 2014 Nov 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- [Clinical examination and weighing of patients in small animal consultations](#)
Robinson NJ, Brennan ML, Cobb M, Dean RS.
Vet Rec. 2014 Nov 28. [Epub ahead of print]
- [Investigating common clinical presentations in first opinion small animal consultation using direct observation](#)
Robinson NJ, Dean RS, Cobb M, Brennan ML.
Vet Rec. 2015 Jan 06. [Epub ahead of print]

Doug Grindlay had an editorial published in the Equine Veterinary Journal: [Reporting Guidelines : How can they be implemented by veterinary journals?](#)

Sarah Freeman and **Laila Curtis** had an article published in The Veterinary Record, "[Developing best practice guidelines on equine colic](#)" reporting on their multidisciplinary workshop to review evidence and develop evidence statements on equine colic.

Rachel Dean has had an article published in The Veterinary Record entitled "[Involving pet owners in setting priorities for research](#)" reporting on a facilitated workshop using an adaptation of the James Lind Alliance method for Chronic Kidney Disease in cats.

BestBETs for Vets

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

- Canine admissions: Is Christmas Eve the busiest day in practice?
<https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/257>
- Danofloxacin in dairy cattle with *E.coli* mastitis <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/22>
- Benazepril and survival in dogs with congestive heart failure
<https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/167>
This BET is available currently only to people who subscribe to our BET updates. It will become available to everyone in 24 hours. If you would like to subscribe to BET updates and be notified of new BETs in advance, please visit our [contact](#) page.


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), 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 the total number of records on VetSRev is 462.

Examples of recently added reviews in VetSRev include:

- Which personality dimensions do puppy tests measure? A systematic procedure for categorizing behavioral assays
- Veterinary homeopathy: meta-analysis of randomised placebo-controlled trials
- Management of acute pancreatitis in dogs: a critical appraisal with focus on feeding and analgesia
- Quality of life measurement in prospective studies of cancer treatments in dogs and cats
- Management of chronic airway inflammation in the horse: a systematic review
- Uterine torsion in cattle – therapy and consequences for calf and cow
- Diseases, reproductive performance, and changes in milk production associated with subclinical ketosis in dairy cows: A meta-analysis and review
- Can flush and lock solutions used in human medicine be applied to large animal IV therapy: a systematic review
- Effect of dietary linseed on the nutritional value and quality of pork and pork products: systematic review and meta-analysis
- Efficacy of bovine viral diarrhoea virus vaccination to prevent reproductive disease: A meta-analysis
- Oral administration of antimicrobials increase antimicrobial resistance in *E. coli* from chicken – A systematic review

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 and conferences

EBVMA symposium

Several of the CEVM team presented at the [6th EBVMA symposium](#) (November 2014). **Natalie Robinson** spoke on “Small animal consultations: What is the role of the clinical examination?”, **Katie Waive** presented her research, “The use of clinical audit in farm animal veterinary practice” and **Rachel Dean** gave a presentation to update the EBVMA members on the progress of CEVM, entitled “The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine: Four years on”.

Association of Charity Vets (ACV)



The 3rd meeting of the ACV was held on January 24th. Approximately 90 vets, nurses and students attended this busy and varied event. The day began with an overview from **Rachel Dean** and **Jenny Stavisky** on dealing with an outbreak in a shelter, and a lecture from Steve Howard from the [PDSA](#) on clinical governance, with examples of how audit has been used across the PDSA hospitals to improve practice; for example a decrease in the use of prophylactic perioperative antibiotics. After coffee, Phil Wilson and Paula Boyden led sessions on hoarding and the legal and practical ramifications of dealing with animal abuse.

After an excellent lunch, attendees could choose from workshops including emerging diseases and the PETS travel scheme; treating wildlife; being an expert witness and the practical aspects of kennel cough and cat flu outbreaks in a shelter. As ever, these promoted lively discussion and debate. The day finished with a workshop wrap-up and ratification of a new constitution.

Conferences coming up soon in Spring 2015:

Vets4Pets 2015

Rachel Dean is presenting a talk at The Vet Group Annual Conference 2015 for Vets4Pets practices on 1st March. She is speaking on: “EVM; are your decisions based on facts or fiction?”. The CEVM will also have a stand at the conference to educate attendees about the work we do and how to get involved.

SVEPM 2015

Rachel Dean and **Marnie Brennan** are leading a workshop about teaching Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine at the annual meeting of the [Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine](#) in Ghent, Belgium on 25th March 2015.

Raw Feeding Veterinary Society

Marnie Brennan will be speaking at their [annual conference](#) on 15th March on "Laying a solid foundation for the practice of evidence-based veterinary medicine".

Evidence Live 2015

Zoe Belshaw's poster entitled "Canine osteoarthritis: the impact on owners and how decisions are made" has been accepted for [Evidence Live](#) 2015 on 13-14th April. **Rachel Dean** is presenting an abstract entitled "Prioritising research for Chronic Kidney Disease in cats: adapting the James Lind Alliance method to a new clinical setting".

BSAVA 2015

Clinical Abstracts: In the Orthopaedics stream on Friday 10th April, **Natalie Robinson** is speaking on "Canine musculoskeletal problems encountered in first opinion practice" and **Zoe Belshaw** is speaking on "A rapid review of outcomes instruments used to assess canine osteoarthritis"

In the Ophthalmology stream on Friday 10th April, **Marnie Brennan** is speaking on "Assessing differences in approaches to ophthalmological cases between general practitioners and those with a special interest in ophthalmology"

Posters: **Emily Newbury** has a poster titled "Beating bugs: a survey of biosecurity training in UK animal shelters" and **Anna Tarrega** has a poster titled "The prevalence and risk factors of feline upper respiratory tract disease in four shelters in the UK"

Presentations (Sunday): **Jenny Stavisky** and **Rachel Dean** are presenting on "Shelter medicine in practice"
Jenny Stavisky is presenting on "Parvo Puppies"
Rachel Dean and **Jenny Stavisky** are on the panel for "Interactive Case Discussions"

CEVM team update

Zoe Belshaw describes her current placement, (you may remember Zoe from “Spotlight on our research” in our February 2014 newsletter):

" As part of my BBSRC funded PhD I need to spend 3 months working in an organisation not directly related to my PhD. I have chosen to spend this time with [Arthritis Research UK](#) based in their Chesterfield office. Arthritis Research UK are the 4th biggest medical research charity in the UK and their main role is to provide funding for research into all forms of musculoskeletal disease, though they also lobby parliament to ensure better recognition of musculoskeletal diseases and provide amazing resources on their website for patients, healthcare professionals and researchers. I am working in the Research Liaison team whose job is to ensure that the scientific work funded by the charity can be understood by non-scientists both inside and outside the organisation. This includes work on the website, internal communications, blog posts and answering queries from the regional fundraisers. So far, 3 weeks in, I'm still on a really steep learning curve but I can already tell this will be a hugely valuable experience."

Spotlight on our research



This month **Selene Huntley** describes her work on understanding how vets gain access to information.



I am one of the newest members of staff at the CEVM, having joined the team as a post-doctoral Research Fellow in August 2014. I am interested in Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (EVM) in the global veterinary profession and the attitudes of vets worldwide to both EVM and practice based research. Currently, I am analysing data from a questionnaire that was sent to vets across the world. The results of the survey are furthering our understanding of how vets gain access to veterinary information; in particular which journals and electronic resources are found to be the most useful. In the questionnaire, we also asked clinicians on their perceptions of the quality of information available to them for the species and conditions that they most commonly encounter in practice; this should help to identify areas where relevant research of most use to clinicians is lacking. Other parts of the analysis are providing an insight into how the veterinary profession worldwide is structured and how

caseloads vary which is, of course, not only relevant for informing us on how to provide relevant examples of EVM in action to vets across the globe, but also useful for the veterinary profession as a

whole. Overall, the results of the survey will be important for the development of EVM. Knowledge of the resources vets use the most not only tells us which are the first ports of call for vets seeking veterinary information but also how they prefer to receive information. We will use this knowledge to inform us of how best to provide information to veterinary practitioners in a way that they would like and to further engage vets across the globe in best practice using an EVM approach.

The subject of my current research reflects my passion for applied epidemiology that is of direct use to the end user. Prior to joining the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine I have been fortunate to have been involved in a rich variety of fascinating projects, from wildlife as zoonotic disease reservoirs, infectious disease of travelling pets, mastitis in sheep and Johne's disease in cattle, with particular reference on the latter two to developing guidelines for farmers to reduce disease risk. My research career followed several years as a veterinary surgeon in small animal clinical practice, having graduated in 2000 from R(D)SVS in Edinburgh. During my time in epidemiological research I gained an MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health through the RVC Distance learning programme and PhD in veterinary epidemiology through the University of Warwick. I have also worked in the veterinary surveillance team of the Central Science Laboratory in York (which later became FERA and is now part of the APHA) and most recently in the Epidemiology Research Unit of Scotland's Rural College (previously Scottish Agricultural College) in Inverness.

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/mailling-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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