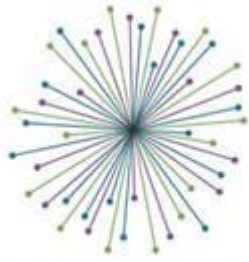


CEVM Newsletter  
Issue 7, May 2015



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



The University of  
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## Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter



*The CEVM team at BSAVA  
2015 celebrating BestBETs  
for Vets being published in  
the Veterinary Record*

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from the [Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine](#) (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 publications**

#### [Agreement between veterinary patient data collected from different sources](#)

Robinson NJ, Brennan ML, Cobb M, Dean RS  
The Veterinary Journal (in press, accepted manuscript) 2015

Veterinarian-Client Communication Skills: Current State, Relevance, and Opportunities for Improvement

McDermott M, Tischler V, Cobb M, Robbe I and Dean RS  
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (In press) 2015.

#### [Cattle Veterinarians' awareness and understanding of biosecurity](#)

Pritchard K, Wapenaar W, Brennan ML (2015)  
Veterinary Record Vol 176: 546 *Short communication*.

### **BestBETs for Vets**

BestBETs will now be regularly published in the [Veterinary Record](#). In the April edition, two BETs were published: [renal diets in cats with chronic kidney disease](#) and [carprofen and local anaesthesia in calves undergoing disbudding](#). These were accompanied by an [editorial](#), explaining how BETs are created and why they are important.

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

- Roll and toggle versus right pyloro-omentopexy in cattle with LDA: <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/182>
- Glycosaminoglycans in cats with FLUTD: <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/173>


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. The total number of systematic reviews on the database is 490 at the time of writing.

Examples of recently added reviews in VetSRev include:

- [Cutaneous wound healing in aging small animals: A systematic review](#)
- [Effectiveness of animal assisted therapy: a systematic review of randomised controlled trials](#)
- [Prevalence of salmonella in raw animal products in Ethiopia: a meta analysis](#)
- [Structured literature review of responses of cattle to viral and bacterial pathogens causing bovine respiratory disease complex](#)
- [Acute kidney injury in severe sepsis: pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment recommendations](#)

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 by CEVM members

### Recent presentations:

[Workshop at the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine \(SVEPM\) conference, March 2015](#)

Marnie Brennan and Rachel Dean facilitated a morning workshop at the annual SVEPM conference which this year was held in Ghent, Belgium <http://svepm2015.be/Welcome.html>. The workshop was entitled 'Teaching practical evidence-based veterinary medicine (EVM)' and was aimed at individuals who were involved in teaching EVM.

The workshop was discussion-focused, covering topics such as identifying the skills needed to teach EVM, the possible strategies that could be used to enhance EVM teaching and the range of resources that the group utilises. There were some great conversations, leading to some interesting debates about how to engage people at a range of levels (undergraduate students through to work colleagues) and in a range of environments (education, government and policy). The feedback was very positive, and we also thoroughly enjoyed the day.



### Evidence Live Conference April 2015 (Oxford)

Rachel Dean presented a talk entitled “Prioritising research for Chronic Kidney Disease in cats: adapting the James Lind Alliance method to a new clinical setting” within the stream “Evolving Methods in EVM: Advancing research methods and analysis”. Zoe Belshaw presented a poster entitled “Canine osteoarthritis: the impact on owners and how decisions are made”. Our work attracted interest from other delegates as it came from a different perspective to much of the other material there, which was mostly from the field of human medicine.

Highlights from the conference included “The Great Statins debate” over lunch, a keynote speech from Trisha Greenhalgh on the potential pitfalls of applying evidence based medicine through guidelines, and a panel discussion on how to “fix” Evidence Based Medicine for the next generation.

### BSAVA 2015

A few highlights from BSAVA...

- Zoe Belshaw presented in the Clinical Abstracts stream on “A rapid review of outcomes instruments used to assess canine osteoarthritis”. The stream was well attended and there was a good amount of interest in Zoe’s research.
- Natalie Robinson attended and presented at the [British Veterinary Behaviour Association \(BVBA\) Study Day](#) prior to BSAVA Congress. She says: “It was a fantastic day with an eclectic programme of talks. There seemed to be a real enthusiasm for evidence-based practice. It was great to present my research to such a varied audience of veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, behaviourists and more”.
- Marnie Brennan presented in the Ophthalmology Clinical Abstracts stream on approaches by general practitioners and those with a special interest in ophthalmology to specific eye diseases such as dry eye. The talk generated some interesting discussion amongst attendees.
- The CEVM was proud to support the inaugural shelter medicine stream at BSAVA this year. Kate Hurley, who was the first shelter medicine resident in the USA, and now directs the shelter medicine program at UC Davis, introduced the program with an update on shelter medicine as a discipline. She showed that the program has been instrumental by reducing the numbers of animals dying or being euthanased by millions over recent years in the USA, and has potential to make an important contribution to animal welfare here in the UK. The CEVM’s Rachel Dean and Jenny Stavisky followed this with some practical advice on how to incorporate shelter medicine into day-to-day practice. This was followed by a further,

inspiring session from Kate Hurley, describing the concept of “capacity for care” and the “Million Cat Challenge”, both of which are aimed at tackling the especially high numbers of unwanted cats. David Yates, from Manchester RSPCA, gave an incredibly useful, evidence-based guide to anaesthesia and surgery in prepubescent neutering before a welcome break for lunch.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion including the speakers as well as representatives from Dogs Trust, Cats Protection, the RSPCA and Battersea Cats and Dogs Home started up a lively debate considering big issues including euthanasia and rehoming policies. The day was completed by short, intense sessions on common canine and feline infectious diseases. Overall, the day was well attended, with lots of questions and interactive discussions. We hope that this will become a regular feature of BSAVA

### The Vet Group Annual Conference 2015



Rachel Dean gave a presentation on “ Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine; are your decisions based on facts or fiction?”. The CEVM also had a stand at the conference to inform delegates about our work and to discuss ways that they could become involved in our research. The feedback from delegates was very positive. Out of 37 delegates surveyed, 51% were interested in becoming part of our sentinel practice network, 89% were interested in starting to use BestBets for Vets and 32% were

interested in learning how to write BestBETs. Some excellent discussions were had at the stand about EVM, research projects and integrating EVM into everyday practice. Jenny Thompson, a veterinary nurse and also a joint venture partner with vets for pets, won our competition and now has £100 of amazon vouchers to spend – well done Jenny!

(Marnie and Rachel can be seen pictured here on the CEVM stand).

### CEVM morning at the RVC

Marnie Brennan travelled down to the Royal Veterinary College to contribute to a special evidence-based veterinary medicine final year elective. The students were very enthusiastic and there were some really good discussions around EVM, with some difficulties experienced in stopping the flow of discussion at the end of the morning! Many thanks to David Brodbelt and the RVC team for inviting the Centre to contribute to the elective.

## Upcoming presentations:

### Cats Protection CPD

Natalie Robinson will be speaking at the [Cats Protection](#) CPD day on the 21<sup>st</sup> May at The University of Nottingham. She will be speaking on "Observing Consultations: The story so far"

### SPVS Student Conference

Marnie Brennan will be speaking at the annual Society for Practising Veterinary Surgeons' student conference held between the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5th July. She will be talking to veterinary undergraduate students about careers in academia as a veterinary graduate, and about the research of the Centre. For more details see <http://lancaster.spvs.org.uk/>

### BSAVA Regional Meeting

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September, Rachel Dean will be speaking at the [regional meeting](#) on evidence-based veterinary medicine. This meeting will include lectures and a workshop, demonstrating some of the things that evidence-based veterinary medicine can do. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at Gatwick airport.

### CEVM CPD

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December this year, the CEVM will be running Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine CPD days. More details coming soon...keep an eye on the [vet school CPD calendar](#) for more details.

## Spotlight on our research



### This month we hear from Kathryn Wareham, Research Fellow in the CEVM



I am a post-doctoral fellow at the CEVM and have been working here since 2012. Having originally graduated from the RVC in 2005 and subsequently completed a PhD in human immunology, I am now enjoying combining my research skills and veterinary knowledge here at the CEVM. One of my current research projects is investigating how and why vets choose different sources of information for clinical decision making. It is important that we understand the issues surrounding this so we can support vets in finding relevant information and develop the most appropriate new resources for the profession to use. The study has involved interviewing vets who work in a range of different circumstances to understand their experiences and I am currently analysing the interview transcripts.

Another interest of mine is the quality of the veterinary clinical trials literature. There are many reports in the human medical literature of industry funded trials being more likely to report positive outcomes. We wanted to see if the same was true in the veterinary literature so we set out to assess the quality of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and identify if the funding source of a trial influences its results. This project was started by one of our recent graduates while he was studying at the vet school and his maintained input to the project is invaluable. We hope to publish the first paper from this project by the summer.

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

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