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CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE
Putting research into practice

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter

Attendees on the CEVM Roadshow. Details on dates remaining are below…it is not too late to join us on the road!

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).

CEVM ROADSHOW UPDATE!
The CEVM have been on the road since early September, bringing Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine CPD to your doorstep. The two hour evening events cover why EVM is important, how you can incorporate it into your practice and what EVM resources exist that can be used to help improve care. There is time for questions and discussion too - we want to hear your opinions about EVM and find out what the CEVM can do for you. Everyone is welcome on the roadshow, so whether you are a vet, veterinary nurse, student or practice manager, working in first opinion practice, a referral centre, academia, APHA , industry or anywhere else– join us on the road! Food will be provided from 7.30pm and the CPD will start at 8pm. You gain 2 hours of accredited CPD when you attend. Cost (including food): £25 per person, £15 for students.

There are still 2 dates remaining on the roadshow, so join us in Antrim, or here at the University of Nottingham. We look forward to seeing you!

Dates remaining:
Tuesday 8th December   CAFRE, Greenmount campus, Antrim BT41 4PS
Wednesday 9th December   School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough LE12 5RD

Find out more and book your place here:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/vet/servicesfortheveterinaryprofession/continuingprofessionaldevelopment/cevm-roadshow.aspx

CEVM Visitors:

This autumn we had Connie White, from Portland (USA) visiting for a month, to work with us on her MSc and learn more about the CEVM and what we do. Connie says:

"I've been a practicing veterinarian for nearly 20 years and have worked in large and small, first opinion and referral practice so have developed a keen appreciation for evidence-based medicine; we want to make sure that our patients get care that is appropriate, effective, and relevant to them, their owners, and their primary veterinarians. Two years ago I started a graduate program in epidemiology and biostatistics to acquire some of the skills needed to make a contribution to EBVM. I had in mind an institutional partner for my practicum but none exist for EBVM in the USA. Fortunately I found the CEVM at The University of Nottingham and was very grateful when they took me on. I've worked with Drs. Marnie Brennan and Rachel Dean on analysing vignette*-based surveys on first opinion and specialist care of companion animal ocular disease. The time I spent at the CEVM was a brilliant learning opportunity as well as a chance to give back to a profession that I love. I hope to continue the association and continue my survey project, contribute to Best Bets for Vets, and develop a rapid review of surgical techniques for nictitans gland replacement."

*a structured example clinical case

New publications

[Quality of life assessment in domestic dogs: An evidence-based rapid review](#)
Belshaw Z, Asher L, Harvey ND, Dean RS (2015)
The Veterinary Journal **202**: 2, 203-212
The BBSRC also wrote a blog about this paper, which can be read here:
http://bbsrc.tumblr.com/post/131084392746/its-a-dogs-life-you-can-probably-think-of

[Calling time on survival times?](#)
Belshaw Z and Dean RS (2015)
Journal of Small Animal Practice **56**: 11, 635-636

[Farmers' perception of the role of veterinary surgeons in vaccination strategies on British dairy farms](#)
Richens IF, Hobson-West P, Brennan ML, Lowton R, Kaler J, Wapenaar W

Clinical audit in veterinary practice: theory v reality
Waine K and Brennan ML (2015)
In Practice **37:** 545-549

BestBETs for Vets

BestBETs will now be regularly published in the Veterinary Record. In the October edition, two BETs were published: Benazepril in dogs with asymptomatic mitral valve disease and Plasma derived colostrum and life expectancy in calves. For more information, see the editorial, from the April edition, explaining how BETs are created and why they are important. The October edition of the Veterinary Record contained the following BETS:

- Plasma derived colostrum and life expectancy in calves
- Benazepril in dogs with asymptomatic mitral valve disease

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

- Debridement versus superficial keratectomy for indolent ulcers in dogs: https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/202
- Atenolol and survival in cats with asymptomatic hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/135
- Post procedure performance of calves undergoing burdizzo castration with ketoprofen and local anaesthetic: https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/184

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. The total number of systematic reviews on the database is 506 at the time of writing.

Examples of recently added reviews in VetSRev include:

- Prevalence and concentration of Escherichia coli O157 in different seasons and cattle types processed in North America: A systematic review and meta-analysis of published research.
- Neonicotinoid Insecticides and Their Impacts on Bees: A Systematic Review of Research Approaches and Identification of Knowledge Gaps.

- [Critically appraised topic on adverse food reactions of companion animals (1): duration of elimination diets.](#)
- [Animal-Assisted Intervention for trauma: a systematic literature review.](#)
- [A Systematic Review of Bovine Respiratory Disease Diagnosis Focused on Diagnostic Confirmation, Early Detection, and Prediction of Unfavorable Outcomes in Feedlot Cattle.](#)
- [Effect of maternal diet on offspring coping styles in rodents: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)

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 <u>About VetSRev</u> and <u>Getting started with VetSRev</u>.

Presentations by CEVM members

Recent presentations:

The CEVM were very well represented at ISVEE this year (http://isvee2015.org/), with a selection of presentations and posters from CEVM members on the following:
- Marnie Brennan: "The utilisation of qualitative research methods in UK veterinary research"
- Selene Huntley: "A survey of the use of veterinary information resources across the global veterinary profession"
- Jenny Stavisky: "Kennel cough in shelter dogs: prevalence of pathogens and antibacterial resistance"
- Katie Waine: " Farm practitioners' thoughts on clinical audit"
- Rachel Dean: "Investing in the right research: Adapting research prioritisation methods from medicine to veterinary medicine"
- Imogen Richens: "What do cattle farmers tell us about their attitudes towards biosecurity and vaccination that can help veterinarians improve their work?"
- Marnie Brennan: "Methods used to research farmers' attitudes toward cattle production: A rapid review"

At BCVA recently, Katie Waine and Marnie Brennan represented the CEVM with Katie speaking on "Retrospective clinical audit in three farm animal veterinary practices in the UK" and Marnie speaking on "Evidence based veterinary medicine in action in farm animal practice" (with Kristen Reyher) and "Biosecurity and vaccination: what do your clients see as challenges and opportunities?"

At the RCVS Knowledge EBVM Skills day, Rachel Dean's presentation "Don't be hoodwinked by sales patter" was well attended, and Marnie Brennan

alongside Dr Kristen Reyher presented the launch of "EBVM Learning", the online tutorial created by the EBVM network. The idea of the tutorial is to introduce the concept of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM) and give participants a foundation from which they can start to apply EBVM to their own veterinary work. The tutorial is available here: http://www.ebvmlearning.org

Upcoming presentations:

On 18th November, Rachel Dean is will be speaking on a panel discussion: "Academia, Industry and Practice. Working together to make EVM possible" at the Association of Veterinarians in Industry CPD meeting, on "EVM for the Animal Health Industry".

The CEVM will also be represented at the Nottingham Trent University Veterinary Nursing Conference on December 12th. Marnie Brennan will be speaking about Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine and Zoe Belshaw will be speaking about her work on quality of life in dogs.

Marnie Brennan is also speaking at a workshop in Northern Ireland on the 7th December, on biosecurity on cattle farms in the UK.

CEVM members report:

This month, Imogen Richens reports back on workshops and training she has done with "Sense About Science" (www.senseaboutscience.org), to become a volunteer "Ask for Evidence Ambassador":

On 25th September I joined a group of other Early Career Researchers at the Voice of Young Science (VoYS) 'Standing Up for Science Media Workshop' at the Francis Crick Institute in London. The aim of the workshop was to encourage and enable Early Career Researchers to speak up about their work to journalists, and to de-mystify the world of the media. We first heard from a panel of scientists who discussed their experiences, both good and bad, with the media. Following this we heard from a journalist about the pressures they are under, and how the evolution of a science story occurs. Finally there was a panel including a press officer and representatives from both Voice of Young Science and the Sense about Science charity. This panel offered practical guidance for researchers about getting your voice heard, and how best to get your science represented in the media. The day was fascinating and I certainly learnt a lot about how journalists and 'the media' work.

Then… on 5th October I attended a training day with people from the charity Sense about Science (www.senseaboutscience.org) to become an Ask for Evidence Ambassador. Myself and nine other ambassadors will be going out and about giving talks about the Ask For Evidence campaign (www.askforevidence.org). The campaign aims to encourage people from all walks of life to challenge the claims they see and hear; be that on beauty or health products, in the newspapers or from politicians, and to ask for the evidence behind the claim. It is possible the claim is backed up by evidence, if so that's great! It is also possible that it is not backed up by evidence, in which case this

should be challenged. Sense about Science also provide support in understanding any evidence that is provided, so people are not alone! The day also included some public speaking training from Hilary Lyons from the Speakers Trust; something that was, in my opinion, a little terrifying. Nevertheless, we all learnt a lot, had a laugh and our presenting skills steadily improved over the day. The Ask for Evidence Ambassador scheme is supported by the Wellcome Trust and you can find out more here: www.senseaboutscience.org/news.php/460/introducing-our-2016-ask-for-evidence-ambassadors.

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.

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