

Katie Lightfoot

Email:

Katie.lightfoot1@nottingham.ac.uk

Room:

C07, Gateway Building

Biography:

Katie Lightfoot joined the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science as a Teaching Associate in Equine Welfare and Knowledge Transfer in June 2020. She has over 10 years' experience in the veterinary industry, having worked as both a small animal veterinary receptionist and an equine nursing assistant in local veterinary hospitals. Whilst working in clinical practice, Katie successfully obtained an undergraduate degree in Equine Sports Science at Nottingham Trent University, graduating with first class honours, and a Diploma in Professional Practice, in July 2017. Following straight on from this, she joined the equine team at the University of Nottingham where she completed a PhD in Veterinary Medicine and Science entitled 'Building a toolkit for change: Evaluation of horse owner behaviour and knowledge transfer in response to an educational campaign'. As part of the equine teaching team, she now supports undergraduate student learning in subjects such as equine welfare, anatomy, and behaviour. Katie's position within the Vet School is also co-funded by the international charity World Horse Welfare, which means she is also involved in research projects associated with the welfare of working equids.

Degree registration:

PhD in Veterinary Medicine and Science - graduated December 2020

Research topic:

'Building a toolkit for change: Evaluation of horse owner behaviour and knowledge transfer in response to an educational campaign'

Research summary:

Using a mixed-methodology, Katie's three year research project assessed changes in horse owner behaviour and knowledge following the launch of the 'REACT Now to Beat Colic' campaign. The findings highlighted the importance of regular campaign evaluation to ensure the desired outcome is being elicited within the target population. Horse owners were found to regularly evaluate new information against their own prior experience or knowledge, resulting in many being reluctant to adopt new approaches or ideas because of persistent false beliefs or the fear of social criticism. Additionally, though prior preparation for a potential emergency can help to facilitate rapid judgements, the strength of emotional attachment often caused owners to become conflicted. Therefore, it is paramount that both campaigners and veterinary professionals acknowledge the implications of the human-animal bond on informed decision-making.

Research supervisors:

Professor Sarah Freeman, Professor Gary England, Professor Mark Bowen, Dr John Burford

Primary funding source:

Katie's PhD was co-funded by the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and the international charity World Horse Welfare

Publications:*Peer reviewed research papers*

Lightfoot, KL, Burford, JH, England, GCW, Bowen, IM and Freeman, SL (2020) Mixed methods investigation of the use of telephone triage within UK veterinary practices for horses with abdominal pain: A participatory action research study. *PLoS One*, 15(9); e0238874.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238874>

Conference papers

Lightfoot, KL, Burford, JH, England, GCW, Bowen, M and Freeman, SL (2020) Challenging the norm: Evaluating the effect of evidence-based information on horse owner-decision making - Abstract accepted as a poster presentation at the 2021 British Equine Veterinary Association congress

Lightfoot, KL, Burford, JH, England, GCW, Bowen, M and Freeman, SL (2020) Survey-based investigation of factors associated with owners' decision to refer a horse diagnosed with critical colic - Abstract accepted for oral presentation at the 2021 British Equine Veterinary Association congress

Lightfoot, KL, Burford, JH, England, GCW, Bowen, M and Freeman, SL (2019). Use of human behaviour models to investigate horse-owner intention to adopt emergency recommendations. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 51, 22-22.

Lightfoot, KL, Burford, JH, England, GCW, Bowen, M and Freeman, SL (2018). Investigation into the telephone triage of colic cases within UK veterinary practice. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 50, 7-8.

Lightfoot, KL, Hannelly, E, Tyler, AR, England, GCW, Burford, JH, Bowen, M and Freeman, SL (2018). Impact of an educational campaign on owner knowledge and approach to equine colic. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 50, 7-7.