

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Newsletter



The CEVM's Imogen Richens at her PhD graduation in January, with supervisor Marnie Brennan.

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM), www.nottingham.ac.uk/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

[Investigating preventive-medicine consultations in first-opinion small-animal practice in the United Kingdom using direct observation](#)

Robinson, N.J., Brennan, M.L., Cobb, M. & Dean, R.S. (2016)
Preventive Veterinary Medicine, 124, 69-77

This open-access paper comes from Natalie Robinson's PhD project. The study used direct observation to collect detailed data from first opinion small animal consultations.

BestBETs for Vets

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

- Enrofloxacin in dairy cattle with *E.coli* mastitis <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/168>
- Selamectin versus ivermectin for Cheyletiellosis in pet rabbits <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/304>
- Flunixin for pain relief in surgical calf castration <https://bestbetsforvets.org/bet/377>


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 carried out 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. Nearly 100 records have been added to the database over the last three months, taking the total number to 530 at the time of writing.

Examples of recently added reviews in VetSRev include:

- [A systematic review of animal based indicators of sheep welfare on farm, at market and during transport, and qualitative appraisal of their validity and feasibility for use in UK abattoirs](#)
- [Data-Driven Models of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Dynamics: A Review](#)
- [Lysine supplementation is not effective for the prevention or treatment of feline herpesvirus 1 infection in cats: a systematic review](#)
- [A systematic review of the effects of euthanasia and occupational stress in personnel working with animals in animal shelters, veterinary clinics, and biomedical research facilities](#)
- [Equine disease events resulting from international horse movements: systematic review and lessons learned](#)
- [Effect of gastro-intestinal nematode infection on sheep performance: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- [C-reactive protein: quantitative marker of surgical trauma and post-surgical complications in dogs: a systematic review](#)
- [Risk Factors Associated With Salmonella in Laying Hen Farms: Systematic Review of Observational Studies.](#)

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

Zoe Belshaw gave a talk to the anthrozoology group at Cambridge University called “Quality of life assessment and other outcomes: what should we be measuring in our canine patients?”

Rachel Dean, Jenny Stavisky and **Zoe Belshaw** attended the [Association of Charity Vets](#) conference held at the RVC on the 3rd February.

In February **Marnie Brennan** gave a talk at Harper Adams University for the Integrated Health Management module entitled ‘Shelter medicine and health management’.

Upcoming presentations

[BSAVA Congress 2016 \(7th – 10th April\)](#)

Natalie Robinson will be presenting “What’s up doc?: Reaching a diagnosis in the first opinion consultation” at 14:30 on Saturday 9th April in the Faraday Room, Austin Court. This oral presentation is in the Behaviour, Ethics and Communication stream.

Zoe Belshaw will be presenting a poster “Is it worth the risk? The attitudes of owners and veterinary professionals to the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in dogs with osteoarthritis”. Zoe will also be giving an oral presentation called “Why do owners of dogs with osteoarthritis use Dr Google?” at 11:05 in the Bolton Room, Austin Court on Saturday 9th April. This oral presentation is in the ‘Orthopaedics’ stream.

Hannah Doit will be giving an oral presentation entitled “Is it ‘a wonderful life’? How well do we assess quality of life in cats?” on Saturday 9th April at 14:15 in the Faraday Room, Austin Court. This oral presentation is in the Behaviour, Ethics and Communication stream.

Marnie Brennan will be presenting work about the ‘Variation in the treatment of canine acute glaucoma’ at 2:45pm on Friday 8th April in the Faraday room, Austin Court. This oral presentation is in the ‘Ophthalmology’ stream.

Michael McDermott will present ‘Optimizing the appeal and benefits of veterinary communication skills training to practitioners, clients, and patients’. This oral presentation will be in the Behaviour, Ethics and Communication stream at 15:00 on Saturday 9th April in the Faraday Room, Austin Court.

UFAW Animal Welfare Conference 2016

Zoe Belshaw will present a poster entitled “Owners searching the internet: Threat to vets or helping pets?” at the [Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science V](#) conference being held in York on the 23rd June 2016.

AHDB Dairy Research ‘Discover, Innovate and Grow’ Seminar

Posters at this conference are being presented by **Imogen Richens** (Implementation of vaccination strategies on British dairy farms: Understanding challenges and perspectives) and **Marnie Brennan** (Biosecurity measures on GB dairy farms: Understanding motivators and barriers) on the 1st and 2nd March.

New Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine CPD

The CEVM, along with many collaborative researchers, has secured funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to develop a modular training programme on evidence-based veterinary medicine and clinical decision-making. The project, led by Dr Marnie Brennan, will result in a CPD module combining on-line and face-to-face training for veterinary professionals. The first course will begin this summer so keep an eye out for future details and how to book in our next newsletter and on our website.

University of Nottingham CPD

Marnie Brennan and **Rachel Dean** are running a CPD course on the 11th May called ‘**How evidence based am I?**’ The course is being held at Nottingham Vet School and costs £200 for the day. To book a place please [click here](#).



Spotlight on our research

This month PhD student Hannah Doit writes about her research. Hannah has just launched a survey asking for research questions relating to arthritis in dogs.



I started my PhD with the CEVM in July 2014, working on the methods and feasibility of conducting pragmatic clinical studies in small animal first opinion practice. Prior to this I worked in veterinary practice for four years and as a research assistant with the CEVM for one year.

In my PhD I am working on ways to establish research questions which are important to practising veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and pet owners, and to determine the most useful and pragmatic way to address those questions. We are working with several Practice Management Software Systems and over 70 veterinary practices to facilitate automated patient data extraction methods to acquire the relevant patient data for prospective studies.

At present we are launching a survey about dogs with arthritis. With this work we aim to engage all those who own or treat dogs with arthritis and to identify the questions they have about treatment and management of this condition. Once all the questions have been collected, those already answered by published research will be removed. The remaining questions will be prioritised at a day workshop involving participants from the survey. Ultimately the process aims to identify the top 10 questions which are important to the people who make decisions about the treatment and management of dogs with arthritis. This process is based on the James Lind Alliance (www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/) Priority Setting Partnership methodology, which aims to bring patient carers and clinicians together to identify what matters to them, so that future research funding can be directed towards these areas.

If you would like to take part in the survey, please visit: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm/practice-based-research/small-animal/dogs-with-arthritis.aspx> to find out more.

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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