



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



**The University of
Nottingham**

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*CEVM Newsletter
Issue 15, May 2017*

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](#).

Coming up in this Newsletter...

- The latest news from CEVM including
 - Jenny Stavisky wins Chris Laurence Vet of the Year Award
 - VetReact: A new website for equine vets
 - EBM Manifesto
 - Bits and Bytes: when horses meet computers
 - Advisory Board for Preventative Health (ABPH) meeting
- New publications
- The latest BestBETs
- An update on VetSRev
- Meet the team: Spotlight on Connie White

Award winning

Jenny Stavisky was awarded the Chris Laurence Vet of the Year Award in the [2017 CEVA Animal Welfare Awards](#). We are so proud of her and all her achievements, especially the [Vets in the Community Clinic](#), providing veterinary care to the pets of the homeless and vulnerably housed people of Nottingham. Well done Jenny!

Marnie Brennan won an award at the [International Society for Economics and Social Sciences of Animal Health](#) (ISESSAH) conference for best presentation. Congratulations Marnie!



VetReact: A new website for equine vets

Friday 31st March saw the launch of the new 'VetReact' website. This website aims to provide evidence-based information, in both digital and hard copy format, for vets on emergency equine

conditions. This first launch presents clinically useful research on the primary assessment of colic in the horse. It was found that there was very limited evidence on colic in this area and wide variation of techniques used by vets, which the Nottingham Colic Project endeavoured to address. The recommendations are based on outcomes of multi-disciplinary workshops and surveys of owners and vets with experience of colic. The overall aim is to reduce the time taken to diagnose colic, especially 'critical cases' where time has a pivotal impact in the progression of disease. Please see the website for more information: www.react.vet



EBM Manifesto

In March Dr Rachel Dean, Director of CEVM, met with Professor Carl Heneghan (both pictured) who directs the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) at the University of Oxford to discuss the EBM manifesto. The manifesto is currently under development and consultations are being held with a number of different healthcare groups. The manifesto ultimately will contain a list of achievable goals that groups can work together on to action change and improvement in healthcare - faster and better - whatever the discipline.

Along with colleagues from other healthcare disciplines (e.g. medicine, dentistry, nursing) Rachel is holding a workshop at Evidence Live (the premier international conference focussed on EBM) which will focus on a One Health approach to EBM and discuss the manifesto. Evidence Live is a stimulating and novel conference for undertaking CPD that will provide you with ideas and inspiration for embedding the principles of EBM in your everyday work - we hope to see some of you there!

For more information on the EBM manifesto go to: <http://evidencelive.org/manifesto/>

For information about Evidence Live and how to register go to: <http://evidencelive.org/2017-registration-open/>

Bits and Bytes: when horses meet computers

Can you look at a horse and work out how they are feeling? Do you know if they find their stable cosy? How would they choose to design their stable? Would they like an iPad? When the worlds of computer and animal science come together, these are the questions that get asked! On the 16th March, Mandy Roshier along with Steve North (University of Nottingham, Computer Science) presented a public lecture for the British Science Association and University of Nottingham's School of Chemistry and School of Physics and Astronomy. They introduced the HABIT (Horse Automated Behaviour Identification Tool) project and explain how we use computers to analyse video recordings of horses. They explored the potential uses of HABIT, including how it can be used to interpret behaviour, as an educational resource for horse handlers, as a technology for automated animal management and as a means to involve horses in the design process of new technology. Find out more about HABIT [here](#)



Advisory Board for Preventative Health (ABPH) meeting

Marnie, Zoe, Nat and Rachel are working on a research project with MSD to understand what vets and owners think about preventive medicine consultations, with the aim of producing evidence-based guidance to improve these consults. The project is collecting data using 3 methods: a literature review; interviews with small animal vets and owners in the UK about preventive healthcare consultations and an international survey of vets about what they currently do in preventive medicine consultations and how they think they could be

improved. The data will be used to inform a Delphi panel who will come up with recommendations. The data for the literature review, survey and interviews have now been gathered (many thanks to those of you who helped with this) and results are now being analysed.

On 22nd March, a day of talks and workshops ([Optimising preventative healthcare in practice](#)) was held at the University of Nottingham where early results from the research were presented to MSD's new preventative healthcare advisory panel, comprised of general practitioners and key opinion leaders in preventative healthcare (pictured above). There was lots of enthusiasm for the project which will run until Spring 2018 – we'll keep you updated on what we find.

New Publications and presentations

- [McDermott, MP, Cobb, MA, Tischler, VA, Robbé, IJ and Dean, RS. \(2017\) Evaluating veterinary practitioner perceptions of communication skills and training. *Veterinary Record* **180**, 305.](#)
- [Huntley, SJ, Dean, RS and Brennan, ML \(2017\) The awareness of the international veterinary profession of evidence-based veterinary medicine and preferred methods of training. *Veterinary Sciences*; 4\(1\):15](#)
- [Robinson, NJ, Brennan, ML, Cobb, M and Dean, RS \(2017\) Common decisions made and actions taken during small animal consultations at eight first-opinion practices in the United Kingdom. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 139A: 1-9](#)
- [Shortall, O, Green, M, Brennan, M, Wapenaar, W and Kaler, J \(2017\) Exploring expert opinion on the practicality and effectiveness of biosecurity measures on dairy farms in the United Kingdom using choice modelling. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* **100**: 2225-2230.](#)
- Connie White, along with Marnie Brennan presented a poster at BSAVA Congress entitled: **"Which cherry eye surgical approach should I use?"** To the right we have a picture of Connie with her poster.



BestBETs for Vets

Two new BETs have been added to our free online database [BestBETs for Vets](#). You can find out more, subscribe to BET updates or submit a question [here](#).

- [Conservative treatment for cattle DA - does Buscopan make a difference?](#)
- [Use of antibiotics in dogs with aseptic haemorrhagic gastroenteritis](#)
- [Tulathromycin versus tilmicosin in beef cattle with pneumonia](#)

We hope you have seen our new BestBET blogshots. We have attached a selection to this email for you to cut out and keep. Why not pin them to the practice noticeboard or perhaps the fridge? Perfect for sharing evidence with your colleagues.

Upcoming presentations

- Marnie Brennan will be teaching third year students about EVM and clinical decision-making with Peter Cockcroft at the University of Surrey on 12th May
- Louise Corah will be presenting a poster entitled: "Defining the good consultation: a scoping review" at the Veterinary Education Conference held in Liverpool on 6th and 7th July 2017
- Zoe Belshaw will be talking at the [UFAW International Symposium 2017](#) taking place 27-29th June in Surrey. Her talk is entitled "Welfare assessment in companion animal veterinary practice: why it's just not that easy"



Meet the team: Spotlight on Connie White

I started working with the Centre two years ago as part of my MPH (Masters of Public Health) program in biostatistics and epidemiology. My career has been a bit backwards in that I first did a PhD in genetics which I finished during vet school, followed by an internship in large animal medicine and surgery. I currently practice in a small animal first opinion practice in Portland, Oregon but have done some long stints in mixed practice and small animal emergency and critical care.

My project focused on analysing data collected by CEVM on practitioners' management of four small animal ophthalmic diseases. We've found some interesting variations, especially in the treatment of canine glaucoma and feline herpes keratitis. We presented that work at BSAVA Congress in 2015 and at EBVM Network Conference in 2016 and are hoping to have this published soon.

That work stimulated an interest in the evidence behind the current management of cherry eye in dogs and I'm finishing an evidence-based review of what we know (and don't know) about that condition. I visit the Centre as often as possible, given my "day

job" in private practice. I'm thrilled that Skype and British Airways have allowed me to continue to work with the Centre and encourage every private practice vet who has an interest in EBVM to get involved. In my other "spare" time, I've been spreading the word in the US with talks to my veterinary college and local professional organizations about the great work that CEVM and other UK evidence initiatives are doing on behalf of the profession and our patients. I am hoping to have at least one American veterinary college become an institutional champion for evidence on our side of the pond.

And Finally...

The number of people following CEVM Facebook page is steadily growing, with over 600 vets, VNs and owners following the page from as far afield as Myanmar and Ivory Coast. We regularly post updates about our latest BestBETs and we would love to receive any feedback on what content you would like to see. You can contact us at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm>

Twitter: [@CEVetM](https://twitter.com/CEVetM)

Facebook: [Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine](https://www.facebook.com/CentreforEvidencebasedVeterinaryMedicine)