

**CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Putting research into practice

Developing sentinel practices for evidence-based veterinary research



The University of
Nottingham

Rachel Dean and Marnie Brennan
Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine,
School of Veterinary Medicine and Science,
University of Nottingham, UK
Email: Rachel.Dean@nottingham.ac.uk

School of Veterinary
Medicine and Science

Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine

Our definition is:

Evidence-based veterinary medicine is the use of relevant **evidence** in conjunction with clinical expertise to make the best possible **decision** about a veterinary **patient**. The circumstances of each patient, and the circumstances and values of the owner/carer must also be considered when making an evidence-based decision.

What do we need to do?

- Identify which species and diseases are commonly encountered by practicing clinicians
- Establish how much relevant evidence is already available in these subject areas that are important to clinicians
- Critically appraise this evidence for quality
- Develop methods for generating data to fill some of the important knowledge 'gaps'

Sentinel practices

Why do we need them?

To undertake evidence-based veterinary medicine it is important to engage first opinion practices as;

- They collect and process large amounts of data about patients and diseases on a daily basis
- They are a valuable source of clinical research questions that are highly relevant to animal health and welfare

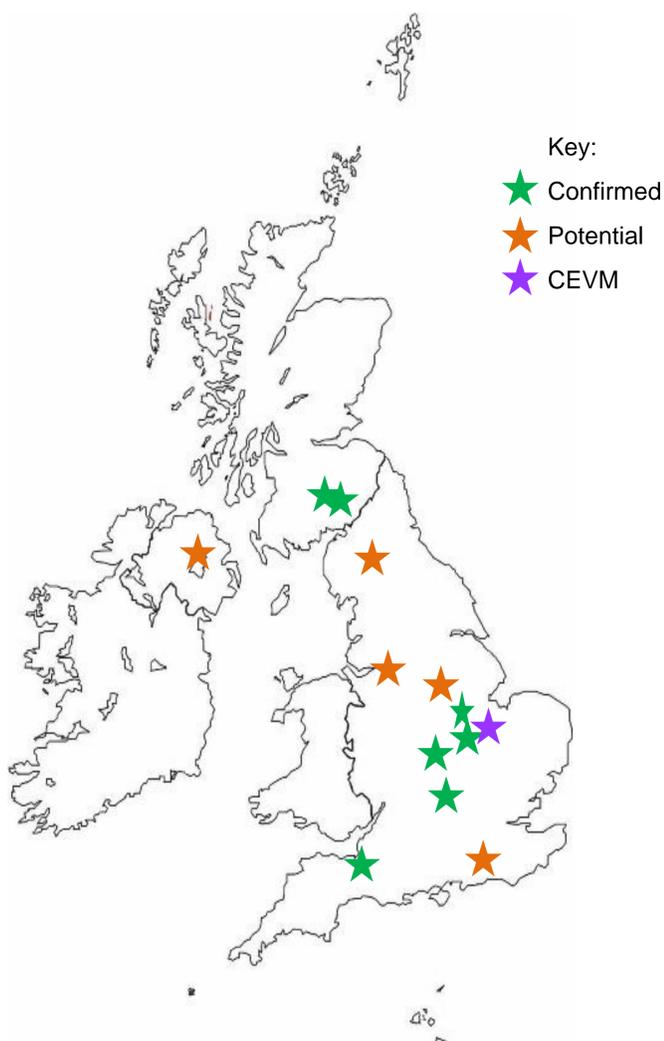
It is important to engage the whole clinic/hospital so all members of staff including veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, support staff and clients as they all need to be informed about the research and why it is being done. We need to demonstrate that it is feasible for a busy veterinary practice to be involved with clinical research and generate results relevant to their patients, with little impact on their daily workload.

How do we find them?

The sentinel practices that we have (and are recruiting) to the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM) are:

- Clinical associates of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
- Practices that have previously been involved with epidemiological studies
- Practices that have learnt about the activities of the CEVM by attending some of our meetings

Where are they?



What can we do with our network of sentinel practices?

In the consulting room

- Gather baseline prevalence data on common diseases
- Observe the clinical decision-making process
- Demonstrate 'research in action'

Outside the consulting room

- Work with practice management software systems to extract clinical data
- Educate practitioners about evidence-based veterinary medicine

In the future?

We will have a network of practices :

- For clinical trials
- That have practitioners with a basic understanding of clinical research and data collection
- That will strengthen the link between veterinary practice and researchers
- That can provide clinical, teaching and research material for veterinary undergraduate and postgraduate students

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine

The purpose of CEVM is:

- to undertake research to answer questions generated by veterinarians that are important to clinical practice and animal health and welfare
- to disseminate the findings of this research to the veterinary profession to enhance the use of current evidence in clinical decision-making



CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE
Putting research into practice