

PUBLIC MINUTES

CONTROLLING ANTIPARASITIC RESISTANCE IN EQUINES RESPONSIBLY (CANTER) CORE STEERING GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2022 – 13:00-16:30 – VIA ZOOM

- CHAIR:** Claire Stratford (CS)
- CONFIRMED:** Jodie Perrett (JP) – Secretariat, Alison Pyatt (AP), Alice Barnard (AB), Blaise Scott-Morris (BSM), Bryan Lovegrove (BL), Claire Shand (CSh), David Rendle (DR), Emmeline Hannelly (EH), Jane Hodgkinson (JH – part), Jeremy Johnson (JJ), Julia Shrubbs (JS), Laura Peachey (LP – part), Lucy Grieve (LG – part), Martin Nielsen (MN – part), Stephen Dawson (SD), Wendy Talbot (WT – part)
- APOLOGIES:** Corrine Austin (CA), Gabrielle Madders, Claire Williams, Alison Glennon, Victoria Murrell, Diane Gilby, Chris Shaw, Tim Mair (TM), Andrew Cairns, Hilary Glasgow

1. Welcome and apologies (CHAIR)

CS welcomed attendees and noted apologies. CS welcomed Emmeline Hannelly, a representative from the British Horse Society, who is attending on behalf of Gabrielle Madders who had been invited to attend the meeting as per action 1/02.

2. Actions from November 2022 CANTER core steering group meeting (CHAIR)

The CANTER core steering group (the “Group”) agreed the minutes and discussed the actions from the November 2022 CANTER core steering group meeting.

Matters arising:

- i. The Group agreed for Gabrielle Madders to be invited as a permanent member of the Group to represent horse owners through the British Horse Society.

ACTION POINT 1

3. Development of the best practice guidelines (CHAIR)

Since the last CANTER core steering group meeting the best practice guidelines (BPG) group met on 12 December and 06 February. At the December meeting the group reviewed the BPG content and author allocation of sections. It was agreed that the ‘Risk profile determination’ sub-section was likely to inform the content of several other sections. The risk assessment table in this sub-section will be aimed at prescribers and Jacqui Matthews (JM) has been working with the Communication subgroup to translate the information from the risk assessment table to be aimed at horse owners. This messaging will aim to encourage horse owners to think about the risk profile of their horses and will frame the campaign ‘call to action’ for the CANTER launch – see [agenda item 4c\(i\)](#) for more information.

The BPG group also agreed to include an overarching statement to indicate the guidelines are based on the current available evidence and will be reviewed and updated as evidence changes. The statement will also highlight that where evidence is conflicting or absent the collective expert opinion of the group will be applied. The BPG group will also collate information on areas where further research is required in an internal draft document of the

PUBLIC MINUTES

BPG and feedback to the Research subgroup to identify how these areas can be evidenced in the future.

The Group will use agenda item 6 for informal discussion on whether the BPG should be updated in future based on emerging risks and intelligence.

All members of the BPG group will have the opportunity to review the BPG and if any areas of disagreement are highlighted in the peer-review process then a workshop or Delphi-based process will be used to establish consensus. Colleagues at the Donkey Sanctuary have agreed to add donkey-specific advice to relevant sections once the first draft is submitted. Once the BPG have agreed a final draft, it will be shared with the core steering group for a final sign-off. The aim is to publish the BPG on the future CANTER website.

There was agreement that it would be useful for the Group to provide feedback on the practicality of the recommendations when the Group provide the final sign-off.

ACTION POINT 2

4. Report on progress of CANTER subgroup activities **a. Research subgroup (LP)**

The Research subgroup met on 31 January to identify research priorities (e.g., behaviour change and using machine learning for big data), scope the funding landscape and consider who has faecal egg count (FEC) and faecal egg count reduction (FECR) data and how to collate this into a resource for future use.

The Research subgroup have collated a list of potential funders including the big equine funders, smaller funders and other opportunities such as University Masters and PhD projects. A list of current equine AR research projects has also been collated. The aim is to map the research priorities against the funding landscape and the individuals/organisations involved in current research projects to initiate progress in key priority areas.

ACTION POINTS 3 & 4

The Research subgroup also discussed how to understand what existing data is available for use as a resource and to create a spreadsheet of different sources of data and associated points of contact (e.g., corporate practices with archived data). Ethics around the use of horse owner data will need to be considered if use of existing data is pursued as a future activity.

ACTION POINT 5

b. Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup (JP)

CA was not in attendance at the meeting – JM provided an update via e-mail. The Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup has not met since the last CANTER core steering group meeting. TM, JM and MN worked hard to get accurate and clear messaging in the risk assessment table, which also includes pertinent information relating to FEC analysis. JM has been working with the Communication subgroup to shape the messaging for the launch using the risk assessment table as a framework for the campaign ‘call to action’ – see [agenda item 4c\(i\)](#) for more information.

MN provided an update on the FEC guidance that MN and JM are drafting based on current evidence with the aim to provide practical recommendations for FECs. The document is ready to be shared with the Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup for review.

PUBLIC MINUTES

c. Communication subgroup (CSh/BSM)

The CANTER logo has been finalised.

The Communication subgroup met on 25 January to discuss the strategy for the launch of CANTER.

i. Campaign Call to Action

The Communication subgroup agreed that the CANTER Core Steering Group terms of reference (ToR) are fit for purpose as deliverables on 'what to expect from CANTER'.

The Communication subgroup felt that the campaign 'call to action' should ask people about identifying the parasite risk/pasture contamination potential of their horses using the 'Risk profile determination' sub-section of the BPG that TM has drafted with the support of JM and MN. The campaign 'call to action' will be horse owner focused with messaging based on the framework of the risk assessment table in the 'Risk profile determination' sub-section of the BPG.

The Group agreed that the information taken from the risk assessment table should be high-level messaging and aim to raise awareness that there are many factors to consider when assessing the risk profile to encourage horse owners to start associated discussions with their prescribers.

ACTION POINTS 6, 7 & 8

ii. On-event launch (NEF and NES)

Slots at the National Equine Forum (NEF) on 02 March and the National Equine Show (NES) on 04 March have been confirmed. CS will introduce CANTER (10-minute presentation) in the Equine Health session at NEF.

In the topical slot on the Skill Stage at the NES (20-minute presentation) CSh will provide an overview of AR in horses and CSh, CS and CW will introduce CANTER, its' aims, what CANTER will deliver and present the campaign 'call to action'. After the NES presentation there will be an opportunity for a press/photocall at the Yard Supplement Connect pavilion. CSh highlighted that all CANTER members are welcome to attend NES to support the launch and be involved in the press/photocall after the presentation.

iii. Online/digital launch

In addition to the in-person events there is a request for all stakeholders to get involved in the online launch to increase engagement. Therefore, there is an ask for CANTER members to use their existing mailing lists/networks to disseminate CANTER information for the launch.

The Communication subgroup aim to establish the CANTER website to provide a platform to raise awareness of 'what CANTER is' and for information sharing as the 'single source of truth'. The Communication subgroup plan to identify spokespeople/ambassadors to represent the pan-industry nature of CANTER and will be looking to collate flash quotes and images for media releases and the website from CANTER core steering group members. There will be an opportunity for all CANTER core steering group members to provide flash quotes for use within the campaign.

ACTION POINT 9

The Communication subgroup identified a preferred URL for the CANTER website.

PUBLIC MINUTES

ACTION POINT 10

The website will be supported with social media content for all stakeholders and downloadable assets for the industry to get involved in the campaign.

To measure reach and engagement with the launch the Communication subgroup proposed the use of data sign ups and a competition to increase stakeholder participation at NES. The Group agreed with the proposals to measure engagement with the launch but that there would need to be considerations for GDPR permissions for any data that is captured.

ACTION POINT 11

iv. Independence of CANTER

The presenters for NES are representing various industry sectors and not individual organisations. All CANTER members are invited to attend NES to support the launch and be involved in the press/photocall.

ACTION POINT 12

BSM presented the CANTER 'brand guidelines' outlining how CANTER members should reference CANTER and their affiliations without implying endorsement. The Communication subgroup agreed that the CANTER ToR will form the basis of the communications for all members when referencing CANTER and its' activities.

ACTION POINT 13

v. Funding for the launch

The VMD can support expenditure for the purchase of some items/materials for the CANTER launch which will allow the Communication subgroup to proceed with the activities outlined for a solid 'DIY' launch.

The Communication subgroup plan to print materials (e.g., banners, flyers, posters etc) for trade stands at NES to display and to have in the press/photocall with CANTER members and ambassadors to promote the CANTER brand.

ACTION POINT 14

The Group agreed to sign-off the planned activities for the launch of CANTER.

5. Communication outputs and requests (ALL)

There was much support and enthusiasm for CANTER following AP's update on CANTER to SQPs at the AHDA Conference 2023. JS also gave an associated talk on sustainable worming strategies for horses. There was enthusiasm for the CANTER best practice guidelines (BPG) and interest in how these BPG could be integrated into training and CPD. The Group agreed that the dissemination of the BPG and translation into educational and training materials is an area for future discussion.

ACTION POINT 15

LP presented an overview of CANTER at the British Horse Council (BHC) meeting on 09 December. The presentation was well-received and provided an opportunity to gain wider outreach with the equine community which generated further interest from stakeholders in being added to the wider communications list.

PUBLIC MINUTES

CANTER has received an invitation to speak at 826 Equine Studbooks Association Zoom AGM.

ACTION POINTS 16, 17 & 18

There was general discussion and agreement for CANTER to develop a standardised slide deck that can be updated as CANTER progresses and adapted for relevant presentations for all CANTER members to use when approached to speak about CANTER. CSh informed the Group that this is already being developed by the Communication subgroup.

The Communication subgroup highlighted that a long-term aim for CANTER is to work towards establishing an awareness week in early March each year (starting in 2024) with activities and outputs focused on this date.

6. Future CANTER activities (ALL) **a. Horizon scanning**

Environmental impacts of anthelmintics

- JS received several questions around environmental impacts following the AHDA presentation.
- CSh and DR were invited by World Horse Welfare to speak on ecotoxicity of anthelmintics and there was good attendance. There have since been subsequent discussions on social media regarding dung beetles, composting, degradation of ivermectin etc.

Drug resistance in tapeworms

- MN highlighted reports of suspected drug resistance (praziquantel and pyrantel pamoate) in tapeworms in multiple different farms in the USA. MN will keep CANTER updated as more information is collated.
- JH suggested that a similar situation could be arising in the UK with regards to reduced drug efficacy for treatment of tapeworms. JH highlighted that recommendations should be included in the BPG that where there are repeated post-treatment positive egg counts following praziquantel to suggest the use of pyrantel as an alternative option. JH indicated that this is an area that has been identified as a research gap by the Research subgroup.

ACTION POINT 19

Value of moxidectin as a larvicidal drug

- JH has been contacted by some stud vets with larval cyathostomiasis cases in several horses when they have not previously experienced cases on the yards and are requesting advice on how to avoid these cases in the future. JH and LP are investigating this further. MN highlighted that the current efficacy of moxidectin against encysted cyathostomin larvae in the UK is not well known. Further research on the larvicidal efficacy of moxidectin would be beneficial.

CS indicated that the BPG group agreed that recommendations on veterinary intervention in cases of clinical disease would not be included in the BPG as the BPG aims to provide advice for routine parasite control. However, the Group could consider how to provide advice on these cases in the future. Changing anthelmintic efficacy against tapeworms and cyathostomins may be potential areas for future BPG revision, as more evidence becomes available.

b. Funding and governance

PUBLIC MINUTES

The Group is currently self-funded, with in-kind contributions from Group members, such as their time and expertise. CS reminded the Group that as per the ToR, the VMD will be handing over the Secretariat role in the next Financial Year and therefore the Group needs to start to make associated plans.

There was general discussion around approaching an organisation to fund and/or resource the Secretariat role.

ACTION POINT 20

The thoroughbred sector was highlighted as a potential avenue to pursue to fund and/or resource the Secretariat role as the impacts of AR are likely to be seen first in this sector.

ACTION POINT 21

The Group discussed opportunities for potential funding from the existing Group member organisations. The Group agreed that individual pharmaceutical companies should not contribute to regular CANTER funding, but that contributions could be made through NOAH. CANTER could also provide discrete sponsorship opportunities for projects for commercial companies to contribute to, akin to the SCOPS model. The Group agreed for the VMD to follow up with the organisations in the wider CANTER group that had previously indicated potential funding opportunities. JH highlighted there may be *ad hoc* funding opportunities from universities if there are high impact deliverables associated with the activities.

ACTION POINTS 22 & 23

The Group were in agreement for CS to continue as Chair until a formal process for appointing a Chair is decided.

7. Other planned activities or completed activities (ALL)

Project WORMS – CVS Group Ltd/VetPartners (JS)

ACTION POINT 24

“Think Before You Worm” – BHS/BEVA (GM/DR)

8. AOB (ALL)

CS highlighted that we have received interest from SPANA contributing to CANTER through subgroups involvement, particularly the Research subgroup.

ACTION POINT 25

File sharing

There was general discussion around how to improve communication and information sharing between the Group and subgroups. The Group agreed that the website could be explored as an avenue for file sharing in the future (e.g., meeting minutes, communication materials and subgroup outputs).

ACTION POINTS 26, 27 & 28

Date of next meeting: Mid-late May 2023