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

MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2022 – 13:00-16:30 – VIA ZOOM

CHAIR: Claire Stratford (CS)

ATTENDEES: Jodie Perrett (JP) – Secretariat, Alison Pyatt (AP), Alison Glennon (AG), Bryan Lovegrove (BL), Chris Shaw (CC), Claire Shand (CSh), Jacqui Matthews (JM), Tim Mair (TM), Victoria Murrell (VM), Claire Williams (CW), Jeremy Johnson (JJ), Laura Peachey (LP), Stephen Dawson (SD), Blaise Scott-Morris (BSM), David Rendle (DR)

APOLOGIES: Diane Gilby, Jane Hodgkinson, Julia Shrubbs, Michele Macrelli, Wendy Talbot, Corrine Austin, Victoria South, Martin Nielsen, Alice Barnard, Andrew Cairns, Hilary Glasgow

1. Welcome and apologies (CHAIR)

CS welcomed attendees and noted apologies. CS updated members that APHA will be looking to nominate a new representative as Michele Macrelli is no longer with APHA.

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

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

Matters arising:

ACTION POINTS 1 & 2

3. Report on progress of CANTER subgroup activities (CHAIR)

CANTER subgroup leads provided an update on progress to date regarding the activities of the established subgroups.

a. Communication subgroup (BSM/CSh)

The Communication subgroup met on 21 November to develop the core brand statement, the CANTER logo and mechanisms to establish the brand. There was general agreement on the brand statement. Group members agreed to share CANTER messaging using their existing channels of communication and relevant social media accounts to amplify messaging. The Group agreed on the overall design of the draft CANTER logo presented and thought the design and underpinning messaging was very effective.

ACTION POINT 3

The purpose of the next Communication subgroup meeting will be to agree key messages to be referenced when discussing CANTER in the public domain and to develop a strategy for the official launch of CANTER.

ACTION POINTS 4 & 5

b. Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup (JM)

The Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup met on 22 November and discussed standardised FEC systems in other countries, FEC methods currently used in the UK, how to optimise

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these methods, the standardisation of FECRT for efficacy and resistance assessment and interpretation of results.

The focus of the initial FEC guidance will be cyathostomins, with caveats relating to other parasite threats, such as large strongyles and ascarids.

The Group agreed that it is not essential to understand current FEC methods as CANTER will not recommend a specific FEC methodology, instead CANTER will promote the use of FECs and aim to optimise existing methodologies.

ACTION POINT 6

c. Research subgroup (JM)

The Research subgroup met on 08 November to identify and prioritise evidence gaps and potential funders. The focus of this subgroup will be to identify equine parasite research needs in the UK. The subgroup thought it would be useful to maintain awareness of current and potential sources of funding to develop a network of potential collaborators.

AP added that an activity of the subgroup could include scoping the literature to collate information on past and ongoing research projects to help identify and prioritise research needs.

ACTION POINTS 7 & 8

4. Development of the best practice guidelines (CHAIR)

The BPG group met on 02 November to discuss the intended publication route, scope and content of the BPG, writing and review processes and a projected timeline. A questionnaire has been distributed to collate authorship preferences from the BPG group and the VMD will coordinate the allocation of sections to authors. The Group supported the proposals for the development of the BPG.

The Group agreed that the FEC guidance being developed by the Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup will initially focus on promoting the uptake of FEC tests amongst horse owners and optimising existing FEC methods. Whereas the BPG will provide more technical recommendations on best practice for prescribers, including interpretation of FEC test results.

ACTION POINT 9

5. Communication outputs (ALL)

There had already been several mentions of CANTER in the press e.g., OTC magazine (September 2022 issue).

AP will be presenting an overview of the VMD's work with the equine industry to establish CANTER at the AHDA Conference in January 2023. LP has been invited to provide an overview of CANTER at the British Horse Council (BHC) meeting on 09 December. The Group agreed this will be a good opportunity to engage with the wider equine community.

ACTION POINTS 10 & 11

CSh/BSM will present the strategy for the CANTER launch to the Group in February 2023 for agreement prior to the launch in March 2023.

It was highlighted that all CANTER members are spokespeople for CANTER and are encouraged to raise awareness of CANTER before the launch and their respective AR

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activities that are separate to CANTER, whilst being mindful to align with CANTER messaging as communications develop.

CW and CSh highlighted two potential events to launch CANTER to gain wider outreach with different parts of the equine community.

ACTION POINTS 12 & 13

6. Future CANTER activities (ALL)

The Group agreed that there would be sufficient activity around the launch of CANTER in spring 2023 and that the Group should consider organising an equine anthelmintic resistance awareness week for spring 2024 to increase engagement with CANTER.

ACTION POINT 14

7. Other planned campaigns (ALL)

Project WORMS – CVS Group Ltd/VetPartners (TM)

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

Worm workshop – TBA (VM)

Promoting Responsible Prescribing – AHDA (BL)

8. AOB (ALL)

None raised.

Next meeting: Early February 2023