

PUBLIC MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023 – 13:00-16:30 – VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

- CHAIR:** Claire Stratford
- CONFIRMED:** Jodie Perrett – Secretariat, Alison Pyatt, Gabrielle Madders, Claire Shand, Alice Barnard, Chris Shaw, Alison Glennon, Martin Nielsen, Tim Mair, Victoria Murrell, Hillary Cowley (AMTRA), Jeremy Johnson, Jacqui Matthews, Rachel Andrews (World Horse Welfare), Diane Gilby, Jane Hodgkinson, Wendy Talbot – part, Julia Shrubbs – part
- APOLOGIES:** Bryan Lovegrove, Stephen Dawson, Blaise Scott-Morris, Corrine Austin, Andrew Cairns, Laura Peachey, Hilary Glasgow, Claire Williams, David Rendle

1. Welcome and apologies

Claire Stratford (CS) welcomed attendees and noted apologies have been received from Bryan Lovegrove, Stephen Dawson, Blaise Scott-Morris, Corrine Austin and Andrew Cairns. CS welcomed Rachel Andrews, a World Horse Welfare representative, Hillary Crowley and Jacqui Matthews (JM) who are replacing Stephen Dawson and Corrine Austin as the AMTRA and Austin Davis Biologics representatives, respectively.

2. Actions from February 2023 CANTER core steering group meeting

The CANTER core steering group (the “Group”) agreed the minutes and discussed the actions from the February 2023 CANTER Core Steering Group meeting.

3. Development of the best practice guidelines (CS)

CS provided an update on the CANTER best practice guidelines (BPG). The draft is currently undergoing peer-review by the BPG group. The guidelines are very comprehensive, and several areas have been identified that will require further discussion at peer-review.

Once the BPG group have agreed the scientific content, the BPG will be shared with the Group for awareness prior to publication. There will need to be further discussion around translation of the BPG into CPD/educational materials and owner-facing communications.

4. Report on progress of CANTER subgroup activities

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

a. Research subgroup (JH)

The Research subgroup have not met since the February 2023 CANTER Core Steering Group meeting. A continuing activity of the Research subgroup is to prioritise research gaps from a CANTER perspective. Subsequent activities include determining how to publish these research priorities, consideration of ethics and permissions related to data sharing and mapping to potential research funders.

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b. Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup (JM)

The Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup have not met since the February 2023 CANTER Core Steering Group meeting. The Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup drafted the guidance on the general principles for FEC testing and relevant information will be included in the BPG, as appropriate. It was agreed that the Diagnostics/monitoring subgroup will be put on hold until the BPG is completed, and the subgroup may then reform to consider next steps for dissemination of FEC guidance and future activities. When the subgroup reforms JM will be stepping down as the subgroup lead, and therefore when the subgroup reforms a priority activity will be to nominate a new subgroup lead.

c. Communication subgroup (CSh)

The Communication subgroup met several times since the February 2023 CANTER Core Steering Group meeting. Claire Shand (CSh) provided an update on the subgroup activities. Blaise has stepped down as Communication subgroup co-lead but will continue to be involved in CANTER activities.

Pre-launch activities

The call to action for the launch campaign was to offer a free resource for prescribers and owners to consider the [Parasite Risk Profile](#), highlighting the wide range of factors that influence this, using the CANTER acronym. The traffic light colours were chosen to indicate low (amber), medium (orange) and high (purple) risk to avoid low (previously green) being interpreted no risk.

CSh registered the website domain name for the CANTER website and made excellent progress with developing the website a resource for prescribers and owners. Diane Gilby (DG) compiled flash quotes from CANTER members for the spokespeople webpage. A competition was run on the website to encourage people to use the Parasite Risk Profile to assess their horse's risk and to subscribe to the CANTER website.

On-event launch

CS presented an update on CANTER at the National Equine Forum (02 March). CS, CSh and Claire Williams officially launched CANTER at the National Equine Show (04 March) with a 20-minute presentation on the Skills Stage, including a photocall with CANTER representatives from across the sector and ambassadors, international event rider Piggy March, horse coach and trainer Miri Hackett and international Endurance rider Anna Bridges.

Post-event coverage

The launch achieved a good level of coverage with social media engagement through the Core Steering Group and wider CANTER stakeholder communication channels. There was good print media coverage from the press releases the Communication subgroup published prior to and after the launch.

The Communication subgroup printed CANTER flyers for distribution by CANTER members to support the launch. The breakdown of subscribers from the competition sign-up into horse owners, prescribers and media will facilitate targeted messaging to these groups. Since the launch CANTER has had several approaches for sponsorship and amplification from across the equestrian community.

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Next steps

Several CANTER representatives will be recording a podcast to continue the promotion of CANTER following the National Equine Show. Potential ways to utilise the CANTER mailing list and engage with the new website subscribers will be explored. The News section on the CANTER website will continue to be updated. Further discussion is required around potential activities for a CANTER awareness week once a funding model for CANTER has been agreed. Several events have been identified as potential opportunities to raise awareness of CANTER.

Discussion

5. There was general discussion regarding how to disseminate CANTER messaging more widely. **Future CANTER strategy and activities**

CS provided an update on the priority activities that CANTER has committed to delivery by the end of 2023 and presented a proposed strategy for CANTER's potential associated future activities for the 23/24 financial year (from now to March 2024).

See [agenda item 5a](#) for associated discussion.

CS provided an overview of the approaches CANTER has made to the equine industry for funding and/or resource based on recommendations by the Group. The VMD highlighted in these approaches three areas that will require funding and/or resource:

- **Secretariat:** Secretarial support, including organising meetings and taking minutes at quarterly Core Steering Group meetings.
- **Communication:** Promotion of CANTER brand and messaging to key stakeholders including: maintaining and updating the CANTER website; translation of CANTER outputs (e.g., best practice guidelines) into training and educational materials; organising and funding designing and printing of materials, trade stand space and speaker slots at events, marketing and associated PR management.
- **Research:** Funding of equine AR research projects to close evidence gaps and inform future CANTER guidance.

CS presented several options for potential funding models to the Group:

Model 1: Core Steering Group members only

Model 2: CANTER Core Members and Core Supporters

CS provided a proposal for how funds would be managed and distributed. CS explained the approaches CANTER has recently received from wider organisations/companies that don't yet have a relationship with CANTER. CS presented a proposal for potential 'add-ons' to Model 2 that could include a 'relationship' with these wider organisations/companies:

See [agenda item 5b](#) for associated discussion.

a. Strategy for communication and activities

There was general agreement in principle to progress the proposed activities following delivery of the outputs CANTER has agreed to in the public domain. The actions to progress these additional activities will be determined once the details of the CANTER funding model are agreed and the Group have a better understanding of funds and resources available.

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b. Funding and Governance

Funding

There was general discussion around the proposed funding models and potential add-ons. The Group agreed to progress Model 2 in isolation as the initial funding model for CANTER and to focus its resources on its agreed priority activities.

There was general discussion around the use of the CANTER logo. CSh presented a proposal for 'lock-up' logos to help describe the relationship between CANTER and supporting organisations. There was general agreement that it would be useful to develop lock-up logos for 'Core Members' and 'Core Supporters' to use.

Governance

A priority activity for this Financial Year is to identify a new Secretariat. The Group will await responses from the approaches on whether there are expressions of interest for the Secretariat role.

6. Horizon scanning

New RCVS 'under care' guidance

VMR Consultation

Strongylus vulgaris – developing diagnostic tests

Distribution category changes in Ireland

Online sale of anthelmintics

7. Other planned activities

TBA Worm Workshop – 22 August 2023, York

World Horse Welfare update

BETA International

SCOPS and COWS joint meeting

New Zealand involvement with CANTER – Holly Blue

8. AOB

The VMD has been working with several veterinary associations to coordinate messaging around reporting of suspected lack of expected efficacy. It was agreed that CANTER would decide whether to co-badge or help disseminate this messaging depending on when the article is published in relation to progress of the BPG.

Next meeting: October 2023 – 13:00-16:30 – via Zoom