

# PUBLIC MINUTES

## PAN-INDUSTRY EQUINE CORE STEERING GROUP

### INAUGURAL MEETING

THURSDAY 11 AUGUST 2022 – 13:00-17:00 – VIA ZOOM

#### Attendees:

Claire Stratford – *Chair*  
Jodie Perrett – *Secretariat*  
Alison Pyatt  
Stephen Dawson

Corrine Austin  
Claire Williams  
David Rendle  
Alice Barnard  
Diane Gilby  
Blaise Scott-Morris  
Alison Glennon  
Tim Mair  
Andrew Cairns  
Laura Peachey  
Julia Shrubbs  
Jeremy Johnson & Caroline Johnson (part)  
Claire Shand  
Chris Shaw  
Wendy Talbot

Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority  
Austin Davis Biologics Ltd  
British Equestrian Trade Association  
British Equine Veterinary Association  
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd  
EPLA Animalcare Ltd  
MSD Animal Health  
National Office of Animal Health  
RCVS Knowledge  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
University of Bristol  
VetPartners  
Vetpol Ltd  
Westgate Labs  
World Horse Welfare (deputy)  
Zoetis

#### Apologies:

Bryan Lovegrove  
Michele Macrelli  
Hilary Glasgow

Martin Nielsen  
Jane Hodgkinson  
Roly Owers

Animal Health Distributors Association  
Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs  
University of Kentucky  
University of Liverpool  
World Horse Welfare

#### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees to the inaugural pan-industry equine core steering group meeting. There were brief introductions from all attendees.

#### 2. Agreement of core steering group terms of reference

The Chair explained that the VMD had drafted terms of reference (TOR) for the core steering group ("the Group") based on feedback received from stakeholders at the November 2021 and March 2022 meetings and in consultation with the SCOPS and COWS TOR. The Group's draft TOR were shared with invitees prior to the meeting for consideration and comment.

##### a. Aim and objectives

Attendees agreed the TOR aim and objectives with minor revisions. It was decided that the term 'anthelmintic' should be revised to 'antiparasitic' in order to include any ectoparasitic work which the Group may wish to undertake in future. It was agreed that this change would

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be reflected throughout the TOR document. However, it was concluded that the initial focus of the Group will be resistance in equine internal parasites.

### **b. Group representatives and structure**

The Chair explained that the invite list for the inaugural core steering group meeting was informed by consultation, the previous meeting summary notes, responses to the follow-up questionnaire and a compare/contrast exercise with other relevant sector groups (i.e. SCOPS and COWS).

The Group accepted the VMD's offer to provide the Secretariat for the Group until the end of the 2022-2023 Financial Year. By this time, the Group must have plans in place for a permanent Secretariat. It was agreed that whilst the VMD currently has three representatives on the Group (in order to provide the Secretariat), it would only have one vote. It was agreed that the appointment process for the Group Chair will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

It was agreed that there is an expectation that Group members do not allow any personal or commercial interests to influence Group decisions. It was agreed that individual pharmaceutical company membership would be rotated on the Group should further companies wish to be represented in future.

Further to previous discussions on sector representation there were further discussions on whether there were any additional sectors not represented on the invite list. It was agreed that horse owner representation on the Group should be pursued via membership bodies.

### **ACTION POINTS 1 & 2**

It was discussed and agreed that equine breeding (thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred) and thoroughbred/racing sector representation on the Group should be pursued.

### **ACTION POINT 3**

It was agreed that the initial representation should be the permanent membership of the Group for the next year with the potential to add horse owner and breeding/thoroughbred representation if these sectors wish to be represented on the Group in future.

There was general discussion regarding the structure of the wider group. Members agreed that the Group will set priorities and provide the seven themes subgroups (education, communication, diagnostics/monitoring, sustainability, research, data, regulatory environment) with strategic direction for taking agreed actions forward. It was acknowledged that there is some overlap between the subgroups and that this should be considered when communicating activities to wider stakeholders and when setting up these subgroups.

Members formally agreed the TOR.

### **3. Discussion of strategy and priorities**

Members agreed that commissioning of best practice guidelines is the main priority of the Group (see item 4) but agreed there are other parallel activities that could be taken forwards by wider stakeholders.

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### a. Review of priority areas

There was general discussion regarding a need for further research and data to underpin the best practice guidelines, a communication strategy and standardisation of diagnostic/monitoring tools. It was acknowledged that funding and procurement activities can take a long time. Hence a research subgroup should be prioritised that could identify potential funders and priority evidence gaps.

### ACTION POINT 4

It was concluded that a communication strategy is required to raise awareness of the Group's formation and purpose. It was concluded that development of guidance for sampling, processing and interpreting/reporting faecal egg count tests is required and could help work towards voluntary standardisation and provide quick outputs for communication messaging. However, formal accreditation was identified as an area for consideration and growth in the future.

Members formally agreed that the priority areas are as follows:

- Develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the Group's formation (name, brand and purpose) and activities – communication subgroup
- Consider communication methods to engage with horse owners, recognising that not all horse owners are affiliated with an organisation or charity – communication subgroup
- Develop guidance for faecal egg count testing – diagnostics/monitoring subgroup
- Identify and prioritise evidence gaps and identify potential funders – research subgroup

### b. Associated subgroup formation

Members formally agreed that the communication, diagnostics/monitoring and research subgroups will need to be formed first to take the agreed activities forward.

Subgroup leads volunteered and were agreed by the Group. These 'subgroup leads' will engage with stakeholders that volunteered for involvement with these subgroups in their questionnaire responses to establish the membership of the subgroups, and will take forward the identified priority activities and feedback to the Group on subgroup progress.

It was agreed that the position of subgroup leads could be rotated annually.

### ACTION POINTS 5 & 6

#### 4. Commissioning the development of the best practice guidelines

There was discussion on the required level of detail for the guidelines. It was concluded that agreement of the key principles is an immediate priority for the group to promote clear and consistent messaging for control of equine internal parasites.

##### a. What is the scope and intended audience for the guidelines?

There was general agreement that the guidance should provide sufficient information such that the key principles on the expectations required prior to anthelmintic purchasing/prescribing are considered, without the advice being too comprehensive.

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It was agreed that the intended audience for the guidelines are prescribers (vets, SQPs and veterinary pharmacists). It was concluded that the guidelines will provide prescribers with information on the key considerations required to inform prescribing decisions, including an update on effective use of available diagnostic tools.

It was agreed that the guidelines should contain reference to active substances (rather than product names) and that it was important to provide, or direct readers to, a current list of products containing those active substances. It was agreed that colour coding of actives could be considered in this original guidance and potentially via websites for clarity, and that associated colour coding on anthelmintic packaging could be considered as a longer-term aim.

It was agreed that the guidelines would provide signposting to other trusted resources for more detailed content such as parasite lifecycles, anthelmintic resistance status and management of free-living stages.

### **b. What expertise/skills are required to write the guidelines?**

Members concluded that the VMD should coordinate and make the final decision on authorship of the guidelines. Members agreed the Group should have oversight of the guidelines prior to their publication but the Group will not be expected to make major changes.

## **ACTION POINT 7**

### **5. Communication outputs**

It was agreed that the group logo, statement of purpose and further branding activities will be developed by the communication subgroup.

## **ACTION POINTS 8, 9 & 10**

### **6. Consider the group name**

Members voted on the group name and agreed that it should be:  
CANTER – Controlling ANTiparasitic resistance in Equines Responsibly

### **7. AOB**

None raised.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

The frequency of CANTER core steering group meetings was discussed. The next CANTER core steering group meeting will be held in November 2022 (via Zoom). Members agreed the Group should meet a minimum of twice a year.

## **ACTION POINT 11**

Next meeting: 28 November 2022