CANTER Core Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 11 December 2024 – 13:00-16:30 – Via MS Teams

Minutes

Chair:	Alison Pyatt
Secretariat:	Jodie Perrett
Attendees:	Claire Shand, Claire Williams, Esther Rawlinson, Jacqui Matthews, Jane Hodgkinson, Jeremy Johnson, Julia Shrubb, Laura Peachey[1], Lucy Coyne[2], Martin Nielsen[3], Nicola Housby Skeggs[4], Rachel Andrews[5], Stephen Dawson, Wendy Talbot Faye McTigue (Harper Adams University) – Guest Speaker[6]
Apologies:	Tim Mair, Andrew Cairns, Victoria Murrell, Bryan Lovegrove, Chris Shaw, Hillary Cowley, Lois Unitt, Diane Gilby, Hilary Glasgow

1. Welcome and apologies

Alison Pyatt opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted from Tim Mair and Andrew Cairns.

2. Actions from June 2024 CANTER Core Steering Group meeting

The CANTER Core Steering Group (the "Group") agreed the minutes from the June 2024 meeting. The Group reviewed the actions from the June 2024 meeting.

3. Research project update: Equine anthelmintic resistance qualitative investigation – Faye McTigue (PhD student, Harper Adams University)

Faye McTigue is undertaking her PhD at Harper Adams University investigating attitudes, beliefs and practices around equine anthelmintic use behaviours (VMD-funded). Faye presented the preliminary findings of the first part of study one focusing on prior to anthelmintic use/purchase.

The questionnaire survey had comprehensive geographical reach across the UK. The questionnaire comprised questions relating to non-pharmaceutical helminth control (for example dung removal, stock density, pasture management practices), pharmaceutical helminth controls, diagnostic testing, anthelmintic resistance, helminth information sources and quarantine procedures.

The presentation was well received by the Group and generated positive discussions around areas that could be explored further in the interview stage of the study. The Group agreed that further information on whether there are significant differences in practices between the sectors (leisure versus professional, youngstock versus adults, etc) could be beneficial to enable better targeting of CANTER messaging in the future.

[1] Present for agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 5b.
[2] Present for agenda items 1-6a
[3] Present for agenda items 1-5b
[4] Not present for agenda items 4 and 5b.
[5] Present for agenda items 1-4a
[6] Joined the meeting at 1pm as a guest speaker for agenda item 3.

Jacqui Matthews and Wendy Talbot raised item for horizon scanning related to advice/use of larvicidal treatments and association with larval cyathostominosis cases.

Alison invited Laura Peachey to provide the Research subgroup update (agenda item 5b).

Nicky Housby-Skeggs left the meeting.

4. **CANTER Guidelines**
    a. Launch at IEIDC 2024 – **Alison Pyatt**

Alison and Jodie Perrett attended the International Equine Infectious Disease Conference (IEIDC) in Deauville to present and launch the CANTER Guidelines.

Alison provided an overview of the discussions and outcomes from the international parasite control guidelines roundtable. The roundtable comprised wide-ranging representation to discuss similarities and differences between guidelines from American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and The European Scientific Counsel Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP); chaired by Martin Nielsen.

Martin highlighted it was a meaningful and interesting discussion with positive and enthusiastic engagement from attendees through the Q&A session. The roundtable highlighted the differences in anthelmintic availability and diagnostic portfolio between countries, and that each country faced similar challenges for example uptake of reduction testing. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to explore opportunities to discuss parasite control guidelines in the future.

Rachel Andrews left the meeting.

The Group moved to agenda item 5a.

5. **Report on progress of CANTER subgroup activities**
    a. Communication subgroup – **Claire Shand**
        - *Comms update following publication and launch of the CANTER Guidelines*

Claire Shand informed the Group that the Communication subgroup received the final draft of the Guidelines on the 6th September to prepare for launch at IEIDC on the 3rd October.

The Communication subgroup created the artwork for the guidelines, although decided it was not feasible in the timescale to include title page artwork for the individual chapters. The main work included converting the documents into PDFs and structuring the guidelines on the website. The Guidelines are presented in an accordion structure which is easily accessible on mobile devices and includes a summary of the chapter with the subchapter documents that can be accessed separately. The Group discussed the possibility of making the Guidelines available as a single PDF, however there were concerns around version control and managing updates to individual chapters. It was agreed to revisit discussion on publishing a full version of the Guidelines at a future meeting.

Key messages were developed using the Guidelines Summary document which provided the basis of the communications campaign. Copy was written for the News Story on the CANTER website, the asset pack, press release for prescriber targeted media, email to stakeholders to encourage engagement in the roll out, email newsletter sent to CANTER MailChimp subscribers, and for a short presentation.

Claire Shand highlighted the Guidelines received good press coverage across the sector including prescriber-facing and owner-facing publications. The Group

expressed their thanks to Claire Shand and the Communication subgroup for their swift and impressive work to ensure a successful launch of the Guidelines.

Whilst the initial launch of the Guidelines focused on targeting messaging at prescribers, it was agreed that follow on communication activities were required for horse owners. It was concluded that instead of directing horse owners to the Guidelines, a tangible call to action would be required.

Nicky Housby-Skeggs rejoined the meeting.

- *General comms update*

There was some discussion regarding the use of CANTER logos when disseminating information. The Group agreed that use of CANTER information and resources is actively encouraged, and most CANTER resources are already credited with the logo. However, discussions around the principles of the use of the CANTER logo and potential for inadvertent endorsement are required in slower time.

Jeremy Johnson highlighted that it may be beneficial to include the phrase commonly used by SCOPS and COWS - "as little as possible, as much as necessary" – as a key message in Chapter 7. Environmental considerations in the guidelines. The Group agreed it would be useful to align with SCOPS and COWS key messages, where appropriate.

The Group moved to agenda item 6 after the break.

b. Research subgroup – **Jane Hodgkinson/Laura Peachey**

Laura updated the Group that the Research subgroup have not met recently. However, she is in the process of summarising the notes from the last Research subgroup meeting around research priorities into structured guidance. The aim is to publish defined research priorities and provide guidance to funders on where to focus research efforts, alongside developing a strategy to maximise research impact in the equine industry. Further is work is required to ensure it is updated with recent reports and recently funded projects to map against the research priorities. This will be the focus of the next subgroup meeting (anticipated in early 2025).

Laura Peachey left the meeting.

The Group moved to agenda item 4.

Break

Martin Nielsen left the meeting.

6. CANTER governance

The Group discussed the governance continuity for CANTER as VMD must hand over the Chair and Secretariat roles before Christmas 2024.

- Electing the next CANTER Chair

The Group had been asked to self-nominate for the Chair position with a seconder prior to the meeting. Alison informed the Group that no nominations from within the existing CANTER Core Steering Group had been received. It was agreed to revisit the Chair position after the discussions around the Secretariat and Treasurer roles.

- Secretariat & Treasurer position

Alison highlighted that the VMD has been supportive with the time she and Jodie have given to CANTER with regards to the Chair and Secretariat roles. However, the intention was always for CANTER to be a stakeholder-led group. The collective enthusiasm and positivity associated with the CANTER initiative and the recently published guidelines provides a good opportunity for the VMD to step back from the Chair and Secretariat roles to enable true pan-industry ownership to commence. The

VMD will continue to contribute to CANTER as a non-funding member, as they currently do for SCOPS and COWS.

Alison summarised the discussions to date regarding future CANTER governance from previous Core Steering Group meetings and the subsequent subgroup meetings led by Jodie, Jane and Tim Mair.

Two proposals were presented to the Core Steering Group for discussion and agreement.

The first proposal was an offer from an existing member of the CANTER Core Steering Group to support the Treasurer role. The principles for managing CANTER finances and the responsibilities aligned with how the Treasurer model works within COWS.

The second proposal was an offer from an organisation that is external to the CANTER Core Steering Group. This organisation has indicated they would be prepared to offer a home for CANTER in terms of Secretariat and Treasurer on a temporary basis, if required, and the long-term plan for how this could operate to ensure the agreement is mutually beneficial could be discussed in slower time.

Alison invited the Group to discuss the two proposals.

The constraints for the Group in terms of options for Secretariat and time were acknowledged.

Lucy Coyne left the meeting.

It was highlighted that the Communication subgroup has worked hard to establish the CANTER brand and identity; there were concerns around CANTER's ability to be actively involved in guiding and maintaining the profile that has been established.

It was indicated that the offer of a temporary home for CANTER could be useful to consider whether the relationship would be mutually beneficial in the long term.

It was noted that CANTER has an outline governance structure for Core Steering Group and the interactions with the subgroups to lead on priority activities, and it was agreed that this would be important for CANTER to maintain and protect.

It was noted that it would be beneficial if the Chair role came from an existing member of the Core Steering Group to maintain momentum for the Group.

A Group member raised that they would be willing to put themselves forward for the Chair role (potentially temporarily), pending confirmation on time commitments and agreement from her respective organisation. The Group supported the nomination as temporary Chair.

It was agreed that the Group should discuss the offer with the external organisation directly. It was accepted that it would not be possible for all Group members to attend a meeting with the external organisation before Christmas. Therefore, it was concluded that the nominated temporary CANTER Chair could attend the meeting to discuss the offer further and decide whether or not CANTER should move forwards with temporary home for CANTER. Following this, if the offer of a temporary home for CANTER is accepted, the Group will arrange a meeting with the external organisation to discuss further in the new year.

7. CANTER funding

Alison presented a proposal for the CANTER funding model based on previously agreed points from the Core Steering Group meetings to agree next steps.

Alison presented a phased approach to the Group for the proposed funding model for CANTER. This would involve immediate actions to confirm contributions from initial

funders and amounts to be contributed to enable the quick set of an income stream to allow continuation of the CANTER website. Subsequently, a long-term activity would be to approach the wider CANTER membership for contributions, as appropriate.

Alison invited the Group to discuss the proposal.

It was concluded that the funders that have agreed to contribute to CANTER to date would sufficiently cover the immediate funding requirements for CANTER. It was agreed to adopt the phased approach as the CANTER funding model, with the "core funders" providing the initial funding and to look to approach further organisations in the long term. It was agreed to progress with formalising the funding model agreement with the initial funders at the next meeting once a Treasurer is in place.

8. Horizon scanning

Advice/use of larvicidal treatments and association with larval cyathostominosis cases – Wendy Talbot/Jacqui Matthews

9. Other planned activities/meetings

- Project WORMS – **Julia Shrubb/Tim Mair**
- AHDA Conference 2025
- National Equine Forum 2025

10. AOB

What's Your Work Risk – Jacqui Matthews
Quarantine recommendations in the CANTER Guidelines – Jeremy Johnson

11. Date of next meeting: Mid-end January 2025 (TBC)