18 December 2025 – via MS Teams – Confidential minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair: Julie Shrubb.
Attendees: Claire Shand, Laura Peachey, Jodie Perrett, Bryan Lovegrove, Jacqui Matthews, Nicola Housby-Skeggs, Martin Nielsen, Wendy Talbot, Diane Gilby, Tim Mair, Esther Rawlinson, Jeremy Johnson, Andrew Cairns, Chris Shaw, Lois Unitt, Lucy Coyne, Claire Williams, Victoria Murrell, Rachel Andrews, Steve Howard, Bridget Lloyd, Gwyn Jones, Dawn Howard and Rebecca Mearns.
Apologies: Alison Pyatt, Hilary Glasgow, Hillary Cowley, Mary Bawn, Jane Hodgkinson.

2. Review of minutes and September actions

September minutes were approved and action points reviewed.

September action review:

- **Guidelines:** With thanks to all involved in the Chapter review, a huge amount has been achieved in doing this first annual review. Any future amendments will be incorporated in the Autumn 2026 review. Alongside this two new chapters are being developed..
- **Pan-industry representation on the core steering group**: an updated Terms of reference has been uploaded to the CANTER website.

3. Update on recent activity

Recent activities to spread the word about CANTER and CANTER messaging:

- Northern Irish Veterinary Association (NIVA) welfare symposium – Julia presented
- RUMA CA&E webinar 11th Nov (Webinar Vet) – Julia participated in the parasiticides session
- London Vet Show 20th Nov – Julia took part on behalf of CANTER alongside RUMA CA&E
- Julia talked at the 826 equine studbook AGM
- Thanks to Claire Williams for her involvement at the BETA stand at Blenheim Horse Trials
- Thanks to Claire Shand presented the CANTER risk profile at the mini-workshops at YardWise
- A piece is going out to all farriers through their registration council.

Funding update: All offers of financial support have been paid in full, we are very grateful for this support. Logos have been added to the CANTER website.

Terms of Reference (TofR):
Our CANTER terms for recruitment to the core steering group have been reviewed and amended to determine the membership process, and to ensure they include pan-industry representation, to ensure diversity and strength of professional experience is maintained within the group. A clear procedure to follow for new recruitment or replacement of existing members is now included. The updated version is available on the website.

4. Annual Guideline review

We agreed that the Guidelines would be reviewed annually in October.

- Some of the chapters have had major reviews, some very little.
- Chapters are designed to be standalone documents, therefore some repetition exists.
- The reviewed version is now available online: The CANTER Guidelines - CANTER
- Two additional chapters will be added as they become available, currently undergoing final review:
    - Foals and youngstock – Chapter drafted and undergoing review before final sign off with the steering group
    - Quarantine – Chapter drafted and undergoing review from the CANTER Guidelines working group. An implementation tool may be considered to work with this chapter – this needs further discussion.

Other - The group discussed the increasing use unauthorised products in specific situations e.g. for ascarids, and the need to develop some guidance on this. We agreed it seemed appropriate for CANTER to create a stand-alone statement, using our comms network via the CANTER website – to be reviewed early 2026.

Practical representation of risk scenarios – there was some discussion relating to developing a simple infographic to show geographical representation with risk categories for adult horses at certain times of the year – like a calendar wheel, which can be used to develop an action plan. To be reviewed in March.

A Review Task document will be created to capture thoughts and suggestions during the season which should be taken into consideration alongside the 2026 Guidelines review.

- Review chapter order & revisit some repetition
- Inclusion of new scientific references where relevant
- Add advice for prescribers where we have resistance to all three Cyathostomin treatment classes
- Consider Tapeworm - detecting resistance, next step for practitioners & future control
- Add guidance for measuring egg reappearance periods.

5. Chapter podcasts & promotion of guidelines to prescribers

These will be developed in early 2026, with Julia working alongside chapter authors and Mary (RUMA CA&E) to create these. Update in March.

6. Reports on progress of CANTER subgroup activities

Communication subgroup – Claire Shand – Horse owner communication strategy

At their last meeting they discussed how to develop a Horse Owner Guideline version using the resources already available with a need to address misinformation with conflicting advice that exists.

They have proposed developing a 4-step call for action, backed up with the existing CANTER short summary, which is a brief 2-page document, already available on the website. https://canterforhorses.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Summary-of-CANTER-Guidelines.pdf

4-step call for action:

- Risk assess horses for parasite infection
- Create a test-based plan
- Use management to reduce parasites without chemicals
- Seek advice from your prescriber

Discussion followed regarding the target audience and methods of effective communicate through central activation using resources such as animated social media, case studies, equine influencer, podcasts, etc.

Two key focus areas include Livery Yards and Prescribers (Vet, SQPs and Pharmacists) with consideration of how to approach these areas, to promote livery yard alignment, whilst facilitating prescribers to work easily with the livery yards and individual horse owners or vet practices.

We discussed:

- The general policy for livery yard owners and how they purchase treatments.
- The VMD provided clarification on prescriber responsibilities when supplying anthelmintics to livery yard owners on behalf of horse owners
- We also discussed how to measure success, as it is important to be able to assess progress/impact.

There was some discussion about printing a physical copy of the Guidelines versus Online only. Although it would not be a huge cost, we agreed the logistics for both storage and to facilitate online sales would be difficult and would require an external third party. Online only is more environmentally conscious and is easier to ensure versions available are up to date.

- The National SQP week 5-12th June led by AMTRA (with Vetpol and Vet Skill on board) to promote an upskilling week – to keep in mind, as an opportunity to launch any available resources.

Research subgroup – Laura Peachey

This group will meet three times a year going forward (March, early summer, December) to ensure regular opportunities to share knowledge and empower them to respond to funding calls as necessary.

At their last meeting they confirmed progress on a number of tasks:

- Research webpage – is now a live document on the website, it can be easily updated at any time
- The “CANTER initial aims” wording will be adapted to include a reference to ongoing research

- The original draft of the "Research priorities guidance" document is being updated, once approved it will be uploaded to the website so it is publicly available
- The research priorities listed on the database will help with horizon scanning, prioritising and the potential for strategic collaboration in the future – it will be reviewed annually
- They discussed potential pathways to include work from other international key researchers
- Plans to create a website contact form to encourage future research collaboration/contact
- Plans to create a spreadsheet tracker to capture the various research projects in each area which can be added to as necessary, easily reviewed and updated, and can be used to identify potential applications for future funding, it would also assist by highlighting areas which are lacking.

Tracking recent research publications:

- The subgroup felt this area is already facilitated though the annual Guideline review with its comprehensive reference list. However, the group is well positioned to have awareness of new research as it is published and will ensure that the Core Steering Group, in particular the Chapter authors, are aware of new publications for potential inclusion in the annual Guideline reviews.

7. **Diagnostic updates** - market research regarding FEC & diagnostic methods for a FECRT

Diagnostics updates will remain as an agenda point in future meetings to highlight new or developing tests coming to the forefront.

- There is no need for a special surveillance group, as we have experts, active in this area, within our Core CANTER group, who can review new tests coming on to the market and update the rest of the group on potential changes or developments as they become relevant.
- One area missing in the Guidelines, is how to evaluate these tests, which needs to be considered in the 2026 Guideline review. Chapter 1 has a section which could be expanded or separated out as appropriate.

Large strongyle test - A small focus meeting was held in early December, regarding the now commercially available large redworm/strongyles culture test. To assist, the CANTER group will develop a Large Strongyle myth-busting review to highlight key facts – to be available on the CANTER website.

8. RCVS Knowledge

We are in discussion with RCVS Knowledge to develop a potential for collaboration in both promotional and educational activities, conditional on RCVS Knowledge being able to access external funding.

- Vision is to develop a course similar to that co-produced with RCVS Knowledge 'Managing Veterinary Medicine' - aimed at prescribers with FREE access and available to any member of the veterinary team including SQPs. https://learn.rcvsknowledge.org/course/index.php?categoryid=22
- Consider a CANTER course, set up to allow SQPs to contribute to qualification & revalidation. There are some options to consider within this.

9. Identification of equids when prescribing

This topic was discussed in the September meeting. Having had time for reflection since, we offered the opportunity for further discussion regarding any thoughts on what we, as CANTER, could or should be doing to address the absence of obligations imposed via the VMR (or any relevant Code of Practice implementing the VMR), requiring any RQP to record animal identification details when prescribing POM-VPS medicines, and the impact this has on the wider agenda for progress in slowing anthelmintic resistance via the implementation of chapter 3 of the CANTER guidelines.

10. RUMA CA&E update

Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Use Reduction Targets – RUMA CA&E announced the first targets for the companion animal sector, to promote the reduction targets which have been formulated through the RUMA CA&E Targets and Measures Working Group (TMWG) using trends and usage patterns to inform further reduction targets. There has been a 50% reduction in dogs since 2014 so these Targets will help to keep a focus to drive further reductions rather than allowing levels to plateau. There is evidence to suggest that a level of "inappropriate use" exists for both cats and dogs and RUMA CA&E have developed a focus on specific conditions to help to target further reductions; a) Canine Acute Diarrhoea and b) Cat Bite Abscesses. RUMA CA&E are creating resources to support these condition specific targets which will be launched in 2026 to promote further reduction over the next five years.

Webinars – We held two webinars in November

- One focus was on Antimicrobial stewardship, providing an opportunity to explain the aims and to highlight the work of RUMA CA&E to date, with the announcement of the national antimicrobial use reduction targets with the condition specific focus areas.
    - Steve Howard (RUMA CA&E Secretary General) chaired the session with input from Kit Sturgess (TMWG Chair) alongside Rachel Dean and Fergus Allerton (the leads for each condition specific focus group).
    - Morning Session: Antimicrobial Stewardship in The Companion Animal and Equine Sectors – what are we aiming for and why? | Morning Session: Antimicrobial Stewardship in The Companion Animal and Equine Sectors – what are we aiming for and why? | The Webinar Vet
    - RUMA CA&E announces National AMU Reduction Targets for Companion Animals – RUMA CA&E
- The other webinar focused around sustainable parasite control, providing an opportunity to unveil the resources developed through RUMA CA&E, and highlight the work being done across the profession involving CANTER and the VMD PiE group (Pharmaceuticals in the Environment).
    - Steve Howard (RUMA CA&E Secretary General) chaired the session, joined by Julia (CANTER Chair) and Francine Fernandez (VMD). It closed with a panel discussion with other key industry speakers; Hillary Cowley (AMTRA), Julian Hoad (BSAVA), Ian Wright (ESCCAP). Viewed: 40 countries, 500 have watched the recording (over 100 live), great penetration.
    - Afternoon Session: Sustainable parasite control: A balanced approach for people, pets, equines and the environment | Afternoon Session: Sustainable parasite control: A balanced approach for people, pets, equines and the environment | The Webinar Vet

London Vet Show – RUMA CA&E/CANTER messages were further promoted as part of the Zoetis Learning Academy at LVS highlighting RUMAs focus on antimicrobial stewardship and targets for reductions and a chance to discuss parasiticide stewardship on this platform. Good exposure and a positive step forward.
RUMA CA&E Animal Medicines Amnesty ran through November - we will provide feedback in the spring.
RUMA CA&E annual review - launched mid-December, thanks to Claire (CANTER Comms Lead) for the CANTER focus (p.18); available here RUMA-CAE-Annual-Progress-Report-2025-FINAL.pdf.

11. Horizon scanning Raising awareness of emerging risks and intelligence to inform future CANTER activities.

12. Other planned activities/meetings - identify additional equine AR-related activities and/or campaigns.

- RCVS Knowledge have a new collaborative award – deadline 6th January
- Project Worms is currently collecting data from livery and Competition Yards – the survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete – please encourage participation though all channels, please share the website projectworms.co.uk to encourage participation in the survey to add as much data as possible https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wormslivery
- New study starts in January 2026 – focus on egg reappearance periods across all anthelmintics.

13. AOB – date of next meeting – Thursday 19th March 2026

COMPETITION LAW COMPLIANCE	
It is the policy of CANTER and its core steering group members to comply with competition law. The guidelines below are intended to assist members in their participation in CANTER meetings. The consequences of ignoring the law are extremely serious and include fines of up to 10% of worldwide turnover and a prison sentence of up to five years.	

Do:
• Review the agenda before the meeting
• Object in advance or during the meeting to any item or discussion that you consider may raise competition law concerns
• Ensure that accurate minutes of the meeting are taken
• Review meeting minutes to ensure they reflect what was discussed.
	Do not:
	• Discuss the following topics without taking legal advice:
	  ○ Selling prices including price changes, discounts, rebates and allowances
	  ○ Any other commercially sensitive data
	  ○ Costs
	  ○ Commercial actions of competitors
	  ○ Terms of sale including credit terms
	  ○ Allocation of customers, territories and contracts
	  ○ Tenders or any other bids for contracts
	• Forget that competition law applies outside of the formal meeting itself. This includes discussions pre or post meeting and any follow up actions.

If you have any concerns or need specific guidance please contact the CANTER Chair or consult external legal advisors.	