Terms of Reference for the CANTER Core Steering Group

Controlling ANTiparasitic resistance in Equines Responsibly (CANTER) is a voluntary pan-industry group that works in the interest of the UK equine industry. It recognises that antiparasitic resistance (AR) in equine parasites is a critical health and welfare issue and coordinated action is essential to maintain future antiparasitic efficacy and slow the development and spread of AR. CANTER will initially focus on resistance in equine internal parasites (anthelmintic resistance).

CANTER was formed subsequent to an initial equine anthelmintic resistance stakeholder workshop[1] (November 2021) and meeting[2] (March 2022). At the November 2021 workshop stakeholders considered it essential that a coordinated approach is adopted through the formation of a pan-industry equine working group. The March 2022 meeting informed the formation and structure of the pan-industry equine group. In January 2025 CANTER transitioned from the governance of the VMD to RUMA Companion Animals & Equine.

Aim and objectives

The CANTER core steering group ("the Group") aims to lead a coordinated approach to antiparasitic use and stewardship to combat AR in equine parasites in the UK.

The Group will:

- Provide strategic direction and agree priorities regarding the development and scope of CANTER and provide a setting to raise awareness of and discuss equine AR-related issues

CANTER will work to:

- Develop, maintain and promote evidence-based **best practice guidelines** for **sustainable**, responsible and practical strategies for parasite control in equines
- Facilitate equine AR **education** and knowledge exchange
- Deliver proactive and consistent **communications** and raise awareness of CANTER activities and outputs
- Promote effective use and standardisation of **diagnostic** and **monitoring** tools to increase confidence in results
- Identify potential collaboration and funding opportunities to address **research** and **data** gaps
- Consider **regulatory** or guidance changes to promote evidence-based antiparasitic use and stewardship

Core steering group representatives

The Group consists of pan-industry representation from individuals and organisations with an active interest in the sustainable control of equine parasites.

For CANTER activities, Group members are expected to act in the best interests of sustainable parasite control in the UK equine industry and must not allow personal or commercial interests to

[1] Veterinary Medicines Directorate (2022) VMD hosts Equine Anthelmintic Resistance Stakeholder Workshop. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vmd-hosts-equine-anthelmintic-resistance-stakeholder-workshop

[2] Veterinary Medicines Directorate (2022) VMD hosts second Equine Anthelmintic Resistance Stakeholder Meeting. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vmd-hosts-second-equine-anthelmintic-resistance-stakeholder-meeting

influence CANTER decisions. Steering group members are reminded of Competition Law with each meeting. CANTER communications and messages must be agreed by the Group before entering the public domain to ensure messaging is consistent.

Group representatives are encouraged to raise awareness of CANTER and share the CANTER principles and messages where appropriate. However, Group representatives cannot use the CANTER logo, messages or resources for their own commercial gain or for the implication of endorsement.

Pan-industry representation from organisations, targeted from the equine sector, will ensure that CANTER operate with an overall benefit to the industry. Stewardship from a balanced Core Steering Group will oversee and develop CANTER activities to ensure high impact with strong outputs. Representation should include:

- VMD/APHA
- SQP registration organisations
- Veterinary surgeon
- BEVA
- University parasitologist
- Diagnostic laboratory
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Equine association e.g. BHS, welfare charity
- Livery yard or horse owner
- Sport horse/racehorse sectors
- RUMA CA&E office holders (Chair, Secretary General, Treasurer, Comms Lead, Administration)

The Group's membership is currently 24 members (+RUMA CA&E) including:

Organisation	**Representative**
Animal Health Distributors Association	Bryan Lovegrove
Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority	Hillary Cowley
Animal and Plant Health Agency	Rebecca Mearns
Austin Davis Biologics Ltd	Jacqui Matthews
British Equestrian Trade Association	Claire Williams
British Equine Veterinary Association	Nicola Housby Skeggs
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd	James Carrier
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Hilary Glasgow
EPLA Animalcare Ltd	Diane Gilby
MSD Animal Health	PENDING
National Office of Animal Health	Lucy Coyne
RCVS Knowledge	Tim Mair
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	Andrew Cairns

The British Horse Society	Lois Unitt
Thoroughbred Breeders Association	Victoria Murrell
University of Bristol	Laura Peachey
Aarhus University	Martin Nielsen
University of Liverpool	Jane Hodgkinson
VetPartners	Julia Shrubb
Vetpol Ltd	Jeremy Johnson
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	Jodie Perrett
Westgate Labs	Claire Shand
World Horse Welfare	Chris Shaw/Rachel Andrews
Zoetis	Wendy Talbot

Member replacement:
In the event that an existing representative is no longer available, they have the option to appoint a suitable replacement representative from the same organisation, on the basis that:

- The new representative has the ability to be a constructive asset to the core steering group
- The new representative is introduced to the group, prior to the departure of the existing member, to ensure continuity.

New application process and timeline:
Steering Group members can put forward suggestions for new organisations/representatives at any time. Nominations must be supported by a written application from an individual/organisation to determine:

- Their knowledge/enthusiasm to join CANTER
- Expertise and representation they offer to support the CANTER Core Group to include:
    - Linked association with which organisation/s
    - Core competencies/sectors
    - Ability to keep abreast of new developments/future opportunities within the sector
    - Ability to attend online meetings

Valid applications will be reviewed by CANTER Chair and RUMA CA&E Chair/Secretary, before being circulated to the Core Steering Group by email.

The Group have the right to refuse membership to any person or organisation if appropriate. Should an individual Group member have an issue with a particular application, they must submit a written statement, with reasoning, to the Chair within two weeks of the application being circulated.

All new members will be agreed, by vote, at the next quarterly meeting, with an expectation that over 50% of the Steering Group would be in favour of the application. The applicant would be informed of the outcome following that meeting. Any new member would be invited to join the Group formally from the next Steering Group Meeting.

The introduction of new members/organisations will be capped at two per annum.

Meeting absence and special circumstances:

- If a Group member cannot attend a meeting a deputy can be sent in their place if advance notice is given to the Secretariat.
- Individuals may be asked to join Group meetings as guests to input on specific topics.

Core steering group structure

The Group will meet quarterly in March, June, September and December. Meetings will be held virtually. The Secretariat for the Group was initially provided by the VMD until December 2024. In 2025, CANTER entered a new phase under the stewardship of RUMA CA&E, who provide governance, financial management, and administrative support. RUMA CA&E involvement commenced in January 2025 as a temporary home with the offer for it to be extended to a permanent agreement, pending agreement from the CANTER steering group and RUMA CA&E Board. The Secretariat will organise Group meetings including circulating the agenda and taking accurate minutes.

The Chair will be appointed by the Group.

Meeting discussions will be held against a standard agenda which, with the Chair's approval, can be amended to include additional relevant topics requiring further discussion. The Group's terms of reference should be an agenda item on the first meeting of every calendar year to ensure they remain current.

The Group will establish seven themes subgroups:

1. Education
2. Communication
3. Diagnostics/Monitoring
4. Sustainability
5. Research
6. Data
7. Regulatory Environment

These themes subgroups will enable wider participation with the work of CANTER and may operate differently depending on their associated activities. The Group will perform wider consultation on the structure, membership and task interdependencies of the themes subgroups as required.

The Group will set priorities and provide the seven subgroups with strategic direction for taking agreed actions forward. The subgroups will meet to agree roles and responsibilities for taking agreed actions forward. The frequency of subgroup meetings will be determined by the subgroup terms of reference.

Funding

The Group is currently self-funded, with in-kind contributions from Group members, such as their time and expertise. In the future there will be a need for consistent funding to cover essential Secretariat functions, as well as media and communications. In May 2025, The Group agreed to seek funding against an agreed strategic plan which identified key priorities and development areas to guide the direction and future of CANTER.

As agreed by the CANTER Core Steering Group, September 2022
Last update: February 2026