CANTER Core Steering Group (CSG) Meeting – PUBLIC MINUTES

17 September 2026 – via MS Teams

1. Welcome and apologies
Chair: Julia Shrubb. • Attendees: Laura Peachey, Mary Bawn, Jodie Perrett, Jacqui Matthews, Wendy Talbot, Tim Mair, Lois Unitt, Lucy Coyne, Hillary Cowley, James Carrier, Gwyn Jones, Steve Howard, Bridget Lloyd, Claire Shand, Jeremy Johnson, Bryan Lovegrove, Nicola Housby-Skeggs, Chris Shaw/Rachel Andrews, Claire Williams, Livio Pittalis. • Apologies: Alison Pyatt, Martin Nielsen, Dawn Howard, Rebecca Mearns, Claire Stratford, Diane Gilby. • No response: Victoria Murrell, Andrew Cairns, Hilary Glasgow.
2. Review of minutes & actions
• June minutes were approved. • Actions from last minutes - majority completed, with relevant updates enclosed in these minutes.
3. Updates on recent activity – Julia
Momentum has continued over the summer with thanks to all involved in the various activities which have taken place since June, including podcast recording, development of horse owner resources and establishing a second funding year.
4. Funding and Governance Update - Julia
Funding: A similar amount to last year has been again been pledged to CANTER which aligns well against our strategic plan and allows us to continue with strong momentum. We thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm and input from within our CSG and sub-group members. We extend our thanks to organisations who have committed, continuing their financial support and to those who have decided to provide funds for the first time this year. Please do pass this thanks back through colleagues within your organisations where appropriate. **Governance:** **Chair position –** We discussed the CANTER Chair position, from the Governance set out by the VMD, this was a 2-year term, which is due to conclude in the early in 2027. Julia proposed that the Chair has the option to stand for a second term, with a maximum commitment of four consecutive years. Julia is happy to stand for a second term. • New applications for the Chair position will be invited at the December meeting, each nomination must apply by email, supported by a seconder, with a closing date end-January. • CSG members will have 28-days to consider applications and submit their vote to Bridget by email. • The Chair will be elected in time for the March meeting. • A Vice Chair could also be considered. **Terms of Reference** have been updated to include additional detail for a "Code of Conduct" to acknowledge that all within the CANTER CSG work as a large collaborative group, with collective interest for the wider UK industry. This will ensure all core steering members work together as a collaborative group with a structure in place, should any issues be identified. It is appropriate to update our terms periodically to ensure our CANTER group continues to evolve, especially as we now operate under the governance of RUMA CA&E and benefit from their full support. **Core-steering sign off process -** We have suggested this procedure is streamlined to make editing less cumbersome with live editing, a reduced turn-around time of a week, providing a minimum of three people plus the Chair have had an opportunity to comment. All updates concerning Chair/Vice-Chair election, terms of reference and future sign-off of articles will be agreed at the December meeting.
5. Guideline review – Julia
2026 Autumn Guideline review – having conducted a thorough review in autumn 2025, we hope this year will be less onerous. Over the year we have collated additional details and suggestions, all included in the review document, with key area for authors to address: • 2026 review – need to ensure links are correct to reference the new youngstock, quarantine and special circumstances chapters to streamline content and remove contradiction and/or repetition.

- Need to cover multi-drug resistant parasites, i.e. cyathostomin, multidrug resistance in tapeworm and shortened egg reappearance period, tapeworm resistance and ascarids.
    - Consider use of case studies on the website to support new chapters.
    - Consider developing a podcast to support new chapters 2027.

Podcast promotion of guidelines to prescribers - We are working on launch plans through the rest of September (website development) to signpost listeners and viewers to the podcasts with announcements in development to further promote this resource.

Starting in mid-late October, we plan to launch the podcasts in three phases, with external publicity to drive momentum and raise awareness. All podcasts will be available online by early 2027. We thank all involved in completing this huge task, it is a wonderful achievement for CANTER to be proud of.

Education Subgroup - We are in the process of re-establishing the education subgroup and are delighted to announce that Simon Daniels has agreed to lead this group with some from the research group already offering their continued support with this revived group. An invitation has been extended to all previously listed in the group and CSG members to invite anyone linked to education. The first meeting will be considered once the group have been confirmed.

RUMA CA&E webinars - CANTER will feature in the December webinars as per last year, more details will follow.

6. Report on progress of CANTER subgroup activities

Communication subgroup – Claire Shand (Lead)

This group met a couple of weeks ago and continue to make progress. Claire updated us with a recap on the campaign key objectives and our call to action graphics in development. They reviewed thoughts about behaviour, barriers, and existing resources available and discussed the key messages to capture through graphics and simple messaging, alongside additional content to be created to provide resources deemed necessary.

Measuring campaign impact is important to help to quantify success and reach, we need to consider these how this can be put into place. We also discussed the responsibility each person takes, horse owner, vet and SQP, all working together with a combined responsibility to engage in discussions and risk assessments.

Alongside we are considering horse owner friendly terminology to help determine the use of the word wormer/dewormer to signpost how we position our messages.

We discussed responsible wormer accreditation for prescribers, there is potential to develop some education with accreditation in the future, to guide prescribers and horse owners to get best practice advice.

Campaign activation and partnerships – in preparation for the launch next year, the Horse Owner Hub is in development on our website, where horse owner resources can be accessed. We will also need to outreach wider through the industry, using a partner toolkit, which is also in development for stakeholders and industry partners to use. Alongside, we are considering media press releases and potential partnerships to explore, with the use of industry events to springboard the campaign activation, using key equine events which are held in February/March.

There are comms subgroup meetings lined up in October, November and December to continue to develop these resources, maintaining focus and pace over the autumn and winter, ready to "Go Live" in the Spring next year.

We are seeking an In-Store SQP to join our Comms Subgroup using CSG links to source a suitable candidate.

Research subgroup – Laura Peachey

This group met in early September. The Research mapping spreadsheet continues to be updated to ensures we have a grasp on research priority areas with awareness of the many projects and ongoing activity through universities, veterinary and diagnostic clinics. Research priorities will also be reviewed annually alongside the CANTER guidelines.

Tapeworm – Tapeworm resistance is a large issue, quickly emerging on a number of Thoroughbred studs across the country, with reports of clinical disease as a result of higher tapeworm transmission. There is very little information available to guide us on suppression of tapeworm transmission, due to a lack of understanding of the oribatid mite (host), though this is an emerging area. Furthermore, there is confusion about how to interpret egg counts and the different diagnostic tests, with more sensitive tests starting to become available.

We plan to write some case studies to put a spotlight on parasite control issues experienced to highlight practical outcomes achieved, using logic combined with the CANTER guidelines to illustrate our CANTER core messages – Research news can be placed on the website for easy access: Case Studies & Focus Articles - CANTER

Research funding landscape: Some new funding opportunities are developing which could be of interest and available. The Horse Trust will no longer provide research grants, instead they are developing a large new project "Horse Life", which aims to gather information from horse owners across the UK to create a longitudinal database. The database will act as a national platform, to source equine/owner data with horses or sample groups, for future research projects with the potential to provide preliminary data for research studies. Horse owners will answer a series of questionnaires to provide this data.

7. Task and finish group - Equine anthelmintic prescribing record document – Julia

This focus group was established after our June meeting, as online supply and record keeping discussions are frequently brought up and are all interlinked. The group is considering risk assessment and written prescriptions with a document, aimed at prescribers, highlighting the use of written records and the importance of the document.

The form is designed for prescribers to use to guide their decision making and to keep for their prescriber records, and takes a "sale" more toward the feel of a prescription, encouraging time to collect and record solid information. Our aim is that this will be available to all to use as a voluntary document, to encourage responsible prescribing and record keeping.

8. RUMA CA&E update – Mary

A main focus area for RUMA CA&E over the summer has been our drive for National Antimicrobial use (AMU) Reduction targets – RUMA CA&E. Through the Targets and Measures Working Group, certain conditions have been identified where there is an element of inappropriate antimicrobial use within the companion animal industry. We have developed some condition specific targets in both cats and dogs to underpin the national target reductions to promote responsible, appropriate use, through a focused effort to reduce use in these areas. As part of this campaign we developed a set of two condition specific focus areas, launched at BVA Live in June, with resources and practice toolkits developed freely available:

- Antibiotic (Antimicrobial) use in cat fight wounds and cat bite abscesses – RUMA CA&E
- Antibiotic (Antimicrobial) use in Canine Acute Diarrhoea in dogs (CAD) – RUMA CA&E
- Building on these, we now turn focus to our next two areas, Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease and Canine Pyoderma, which will be developed over the winter, with plans to launch them early next year.
- VetTimes have recorded a podcast, featuring RUMA CA&E to maintain focus and visibility of our national AMU targets to keep momentum and drive awareness of our resources now available to assist veterinary practices on their journey for reduced use of antibiotics.

Future activity

- London Vet Show (November) - we will feature at the as part of the Zoetis learning academy, with talks including all aspects of our work within RUMA CA&E and CANTER.
- The Animal Medicines Amnesty returns in November, now including all medicine classes this campaign provides the opportunity to remind all of core stewardship messages to encourage responsible and safe use, and appropriate disposal via veterinary practices. Any support to amplify this campaign is always welcome.
- The Annual report, available in December, will profile the work of RUMA CA&E and CANTER, whilst providing the opportunity for RUMA CA&E members to share medicine stewardship information, with other important updates from other organisations.
- RUMA CA&E will host two webinars similar to last year, in early December, each with a focus on AMU or parasiticides, with CANTER incorporated into the parasiticide presentation.

9. AOB - Horizon scan, other activities or meetings – *Raising awareness of emerging risks/intelligence to inform future activities*

EIDS connections - Keep the connection with EIDS in mind, their team of epidemiologists have a good outreach via their quarterly reports, through which CANTER initiatives could be amplified. Consider reaching out to them with our CANTER specific comms - next EIDS meeting is November/December. EIDs are represented in our Research subgroup to keep two-way communication channels open and to benefit from their scientific input.

Written reports/prescribing records:

- We discussed the use of prescribing record data and if there is a way we could use such data in the future and steps that would be necessary.

- We will include a "How to report resistance" link to encourage better reporting, in liaison with the VMD, to ensure people are aware of the system in place for reporting reduced efficacy, alongside use of FEC reduction tests.

VMD study with University of Liverpool on AMR resistance - link to share more widely with contacts as relevant:

- VMD-funded study calls on horse owners to help tackle antimicrobial resistance - GOV.UK

Date of next meeting – Thursday 17th December 2026 1-3pm
Proposed 2027 meeting dates: Thursday 1-3pm 18th March, 10th June, 16th September, 16th December

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.	