CLINICAL TRIALS

Veterinary All Trials Initiative

THE All Trials (www.alltrials.net) initiative has been very successful in the human medical field in drawing attention to the importance of registering and publishing
clinical trials involving patients. By making it clear what trials have been undertaken and ensuring all results are available, patients can be reassured that their involvement in trials is making a real difference; patients and doctors can make evidence-based decisions regarding the most appropriate treatments; and duplication in research can be avoided.

We are currently trying to assess interest and support for a similar initiative in the veterinary field, that is, for a joint collaboration to create a Veterinary All Trials Initiative.

To this end, we are conducting an online survey, at http://bit.ly/vetalltrials or www.surveymonkey.com/r/F7FLD9W. The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. Anyone interested in this initiative is invited to take part, and also to let others who might be interested know about it.

At this stage we’re not looking for any formal support or financial commitment. Our goal is to assess the interest of the veterinary community in a veterinary clinical trials registry, and to begin building a network of individuals interested in supporting and contributing to the realisation of this project. The first step is to form a consortium to provide input on policy, governance, existing standards, operations and funding options.

An international group of interested organisations and individuals within the veterinary profession are working together to establish a consortium. Charter organisations currently involved include:

- The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevm).
- The Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Association (ebvma.org).
- RCVS Knowledge (knowledge.rcvs.org.uk).
- Onswitch (onswitch.co.uk).
- The Veterinary Information Network (vin.com).
- Veterinary Record and Veterinary Record Open (BMJ).

It is important that the veterinary profession and the animal-owning public know what trials have been conducted or are ongoing and what they hope to achieve. We would also like to see all trial outcomes reported (including scientific publications and research data) and made available using existing open access, content and data licensing models. This will avoid patients, owners and veterinarians becoming involved in trials whose results are never made available. It will also improve the evidence-base available to enable properly informed clinical decision making.

Together, through this initiative, we could make a real difference to the quality and reporting of veterinary research, and to the welfare of the animals in veterinary care. To participate in the survey, sign our petition, share your expertise on our forum, receive periodic updates on progress by e-mail or follow us on social media, please visit http://vetalltrials.org

Rachel Dean, Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine, University of Nottingham
Nick Royle, Clare Boulton, RCVS Knowledge
Stuart Turner, Brennen McKenzie, Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine Association
Annette O’Connor, Iowa State University
Steve Budsberg, University of Georgia
Paul Pion, Veterinary Information Network
Alison Lambert, OnSwitch
Suzanne Jarvis, Veterinary Record and Veterinary Record Open (BMJ)
Suzanna Reynolds, Paradigm Support

doi: 10.1136/vr.h4107