

**CONTRIBUTED PAPER TITLE:**

**The State of the Information Infrastructure Supporting Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine: a Comparison with Human Medicine**

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**QUESTION:**

What are the key characteristics of the current information infrastructure that supports the practice of evidence based veterinary medicine, and how does this infrastructure compare with that of human medicine?

**OBJECTIVE:**

To map out the characteristics of the current information infrastructure that supports the practice of evidence based veterinary medicine in order to identify areas for further research and new development. The current information infrastructure supporting evidence based practice in human medicine was used as a reference point. Given the many critical linkages between animal health and human health in today's world, the development of a robust information infrastructure to support evidence based practice in veterinary medicine is crucial. Benchmarking the status quo is a first step in this process.

**METHODS:**

This comparative study employed a literature search of MEDLINE and CAB Abstracts, as well as selected grey literature sources, in order to map out the current characteristics of the following information infrastructure elements in veterinary medicine: clinical research registries, organizational support for the production of systematic reviews, the state of review articles, point of clinical care databases, search filters in PubMed and CAB Abstracts, indexing of clinical research study designs in CAB Abstracts and PubMed, and the use of structured abstracts and clinical research reporting standards, such as CONSORT, in veterinary medicine journals. The literature retrieved was analyzed for similarities and differences between the information infrastructure of veterinary medicine and that of human medicine.

**RESULTS:**

Preliminary results indicate that the information infrastructure to support evidence based practice in veterinary medicine is relatively undeveloped.

**CONCLUSION:**

The information infrastructure supporting evidence based veterinary medicine practice in most of the eight elements evaluated is in embryonic stages relative to the corresponding information infrastructure in human medicine. This lack of development creates serious barriers to both research uptake by veterinary medicine practitioners and to the adoption of evidence based medicine modalities in day-to-day practice.