



The Global Resource for Online Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine Learning: a collaborative, open access learning tool.

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Outline

- Context
- Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine Learning Consortium (EBVM Learning Consortium)
- Development of the open access online tutorial
- How the tutorial is being used
- Future developments



<http://www.ebvmlearning.org>

EBVM LEARNING



ABCs of EBVM

Ask

Acquire

Appraise

Apply

Assess

What next?



EBVM Learning

This tutorial introduces the concepts of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM), and aims to give you a foundation from which you can start to apply EBVM to your own veterinary work.

Start the tutorial!

Context (1)

- EBVM less widely used than Evidence-based Medicine
 - different client/patient relationship
 - different funding models
 - fewer studies
 - different availability of resources
 - no National Health Service
 - no veterinary equivalent of PubMed
- There needs to be more evidence!



Context (2)

- EBVM is developing
 - Evidenced-Based Veterinary Medicine Association (EBVMA) in North America, established in 2004
 - Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM), University of Nottingham in the UK, established in 2009
 - RCVS Knowledge engaged the veterinary profession in the UK in 2013
 - EBVM learning Consortium established in 2015

EBVM Learning Consortium

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Tim Parkin

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Target Grants 2

Network members develop practitioner EBVM course



Target Grants 2 has been awarded to an international collaboration of Network members who will develop a free online EBVM course for practitioners.

The project is lead by Dr Kristen Reyher from Bristol University, and Drs Rachel Dean and Marnie Brennan from Nottingham University, and will combine the resources of team members from education centres in Germany, Canada, the USA, Romania and the UK.

[Join the conversation](#)



Network Grants

This month we'll be launching the Network Grants - yearly grants available exclusively to the Network.

These grants will support academic or practice-based projects which further veterinary knowledge and its evidence-based practice.

Stay tuned for our call for interest later this month!

What does EBVM Learning do?

- Provides open-source learning
- Aligns with existing resources
- Builds a community of practice

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What is EBVM?

The practise of Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM) is the use of best available scientific evidence, in conjunction with clinical expertise and consideration of owner and patient factors, to make the best clinical decisions for patients.

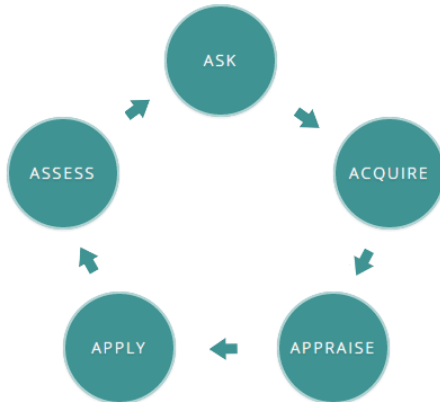
The precise wording of definitions varies with author, but at its core, EBVM is a structured and explicit method that helps us make decisions, in clinical practice as well as the many other areas where veterinarians might work.

Search

In the ABCs of EBVM section:

- **What is EBVM?**
- Is EBVM a new concept?
- Why is EBVM important?
- Does this apply to me?
- Where do I start?
- Challenges of EBVM
- So who's doing it?
- Making the most of this tutorial
- Quiz
- Summary

Five steps of EBVM



1. **Ask** – defining a clinical question that is of interest and (hopefully!) answerable
2. **Acquire** – finding the best available evidence to answer the question
3. **Appraise** – assessing the quality of the relevant evidence found
4. **Apply** – implementing the evidence into clinical practice where appropriate
5. **Assess** – evaluating the impact of the implementation and changes in clinical practice

- 1. ASK
(a specific question)
- 2. ACQUIRE
(the evidence)
- 3. APPRAISE
(its quality)
- 4. APPLY
(to practice)
- 5. ASSESS
(on clinical outcomes)



Development of the open access online tutorial

- Led by University of Bristol
 - Target Grant bid submitted Jan 2015
 - Grant confirmed Mar 2015
- ‘Chapter leads’ identified for each of the five steps
 - Emma Place (Subject Librarian for Veterinary and Dental Sciences, University of Bristol) led the ‘Acquire’ chapter
 - Dropbox, phonecalls, no face-to-face, several iterations
- 1st Acquire draft submitted May 2015
- Final draft submitted Aug 2015
- Launched 31st Oct 2015

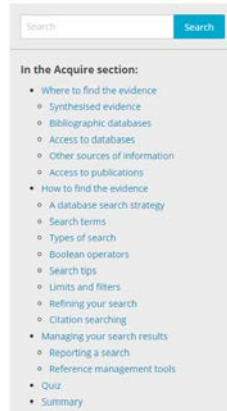
Step 2 - ACQUIRE

- Where to find evidence
 - Identify information sources
- How to find evidence
 - Getting access!
- Managing search results
 - Referencing and reporting search strategies



Acquire

Having refined a clinical question, the next step is to conduct a search to identify evidence that will help answer the question. EBVM relies on acquiring the best available scientific research and data to help minimise bias in clinical decision-making. As a vet, you need to identify the best sources of scientific information that you have access to, and develop the skills and strategies needed to use them effectively.



By the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify which information sources can help to find the best evidence for veterinary medicine.
- Establish how to get access to these resources for your own clinical practice.
- Translate a clinical question into a database search strategy and understand the fundamentals of efficient searching.
- Manage your references and report your search strategies.

- Where to find evidence?
 - Veterinarians in practice do not necessarily have access to the same resources

In human medicine in places like the UK, doctors rely on National Health Service (NHS) library services to provide access to much of the evidence they need for EBM. The lack of an equivalent to the NHS in the veterinary community means that there is no national body to pay for access to the databases and peer-reviewed journals that hold some of the most useful scientific evidence, and so alternative routes must be found. This is one of the key challenges for members of the veterinary profession looking to take EBVM forward.

ACQUIRE – Quiz to consolidate learning

Quiz

RCVS Knowledge is publishing a collection of evidence syntheses to support EBVM - what are they called?

- BARK
- BestBETS for Vets
- CATS
- Knowledge Summaries
Correct. RCVS Knowledge in the UK is creating a global network of vets to collaborate and create an open source repository of Knowledge Summaries to support EBVM.
- Systematic reviews

Check Answer

Show Answers



Correct

What bibliographic database has been shown to have the greatest percentage coverage of journals with veterinary content?

- BIOSIS Citation Index
- CAB Abstracts
- Medline
- PubMed
Incorrect. PubMed is a free version of Medline, the key database for human medicine, though it also covers many of the key peer-reviewed veterinary journals, and will be strong on inter-disciplinary journals in health sciences.
- VetMed Resource

Check Answer

Show Answers



Incorrect



Features of EBVM Learning

- Problem-based/self-directed learning to develop key skills
- Case-based examples of applying EBVM
- Stand-alone, flexible learning objects with extensive links
- Glossary of common terms

"This succinct, some would say obvious, definition of what we all try to do anyway, belies the more profound philosophy behind EBVM. At its heart is the confidence in the scientific methodology that has developed over the centuries to enable us to distinguish what is likely to be true from what is likely to be false (or unproven)."

Peter Cockcroft and Mark Holmes, Handbook of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (2003)

Highlighting other resources

- Comprehensive scaffold with signposting
- Extensive links
- Intended to be a ‘jumping off point’ as much as a ‘one-stop shop’



What next?

Congratulations! You've completed the EBVM Learning tutorial. We hope you feel you've improved your knowledge about EBVM, and thought of ways you can apply it to your everyday practice.



How the tutorial is being used

Currently used:

- In undergraduate teaching at the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Sciences
- Promoted at all UK veterinary schools

In development:

- In the University of Edinburgh's online Advanced Clinical Practice MSc
- In undergraduate teaching at the University of Edinburgh



Tutorial usage figures

From mid November 2015 to mid May 2016:

- Over **4,500** sessions (visits)
- Over **24,000** page views
- Viewed on average **5** pages per visit
- Spent on average **7.46** min per visit

- 73% of the visits were first timers (new visits)
- 27% of the visits were returning visitors

- 30 visits came to the site via Twitter
- 23 visits came to the site via Facebook
- 3 visits came to the site via LinkedIn
- 2 visits came to the site via WordPress

Most of the visits came from UK, Russia, USA, then followed by Australia, the Netherlands, Brazil and Germany



Future developments

Hoping to be able to expand over time

- More modules
- Suggestions welcome

EBVM Learning Consortium long term goals:

- CAT/BET/Knowledge Summary database
- Wiki tools for evidence synthesis collaboration
- Develop a MOOC
- Assessments of EBVM teaching
- Integrate into specialist training



Thank you.

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