

POSTER

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- **From discovery to veterinary practice: how to create intelligent solutions to find evidence on animal health in Finland**
- **Abstract**

Introduction

Evidence-based veterinary medicine (EVM) is defined as “the use of best relevant evidence in conjunction with clinical expertise to make best possible decision about a veterinary patient. The circumstances of each patient, and the circumstances and values of the owner/ carer, must also be considered when making an evidence-based decision”. For a busy practitioner in human medicine, the evidence-based process is aided by the summaries of best available evidence, such as guidelines derived from the Cochrane Collection. However, in veterinary medicine the amount of good quality studies is insufficient to create a similar procedure. In order to develop better information search tools, the temporal dimension to study information seeking behaviour of clinical veterinarians is needed.

Aim

The aim of this project is to deepen the previous knowledge of veterinarians' information seeking behavior as the basis for developing ontologies in the Semantic Web. That is required for a better findability by refining search tools and will serve both academic research and practicing fields of the veterinary business. Though a relatively good accessibility of scientific information in Finland, it is of no use if not discoverable.

Method

The information seeking behavior of practicing veterinary has been studied and the results are reported in recent articles forming a solid basis for future studies. It is reasonable to ask similar research questions as done earlier to have compatible data from Finland, too.

A semi-structured interview is done during the Annual Veterinary Fair in November 2018 in Helsinki, Finland. The target group consists of veterinarians starting their careers in private practices, as well working in large animal practice. Time factor and practice-based research are included in the research questions on information seeking behavior.

Results

The expected results describe the information seeking behavior of practicing veterinarians in Finland and how they can provide recent discoveries in the academic research institutions to apply in everyday practice. The information could be expected to flow in two ways – the practitioners have the opportunity to collect and analyse primary care clinical data to answer questions relevant to primary care practitioners. The practice-based research is research involving client-owned animals and conducted by non institutionally-based veterinary practitioners who might not normally be involved with research.

Conclusion

Successful decision making based on high quality evidence – accessed rapidly – is required in contemporary clinical practice. Helping the busy vets in their literature search processes by creating solid and trustful literature research systems is the task of information specialists. The help of ontologies tailored to special user groups adds value to the great collection work information providers do. It is not possible to practice on evidence basis if evidence is not acquired. Availability is necessary, but without findability it is of no use. According to the key ideas of One Health Initiative the veterinarians should be able to share their responsibility to prevent the global threats. Reliable evidence helps specialists make better decisions and hence bring health and wealth to *All Creatures Great and Small*, including humans.

Keywords

Evidence-based veterinary medicine, Practice-based research, Continuing professional development, Information seeking behavior, Veterinarians