

2010 BVCS CONFERENCE

- Venue

Peterborough

- Convenor

Karin Mueller, Cambridge Veterinary College

- Topics

Fact and evidence gathering regarding infectious diseases in camelids

- Other presentations

Bovine TB in UK camelids

TB diagnosis & current control and testing protocols

Laboratory diagnosis of infectious disease: who, when, how, how many, what test

UK Quality Assurance Scheme

Selected topics from the 2010 international conference

- Report

You might well wonder why delegates at the BVCS annual conference are pictured with an entirely different species, even though the elongated neck and legs are strangely reminiscent of camelids.

In fact the encounter with greyhounds occurred at our social evening on the Saturday night when we went to the dogs at Peterborough - a novel experience for some of us. Unspecified amounts of money exchanged hands, with the Tote winning overall, but all agreed it made for a good night out



Our usual format of a long weekend to allow time for practical sessions, was streamlined this year. Instead, we all participated in a packed schedule over two days, concentrating on fact and evidence gathering regarding infectious diseases and parasites in camelids

We began with the basics...

a presentation entitled 'Is it evidence? How to evaluate publications'. This led to a breakout session with small groups reading, discussing and commenting on camelid-based articles, finally putting together a summary of evidence for infectious disease susceptibility in camelids, together with their likely epidemiology

After lunch...

we concentrated on TB - first an overview of the situation in UK camelids, then a session on diagnosis, current control and testing protocols

This naturally led on to a more general discussion about laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases in camelids

The following day began with...

an introduction to the proposed UK Quality Assurance Scheme for camelids, which led on to a great deal of discussion about the finer points of how the scheme could be operated. A questionnaire will provide further input before the final version is ready for validation

The weekend concluded...

with a series of topics from the International Camelid Conference held in Ohio this spring. British Camelids Ltd kindly sponsored two vets from the BVCS to attend the conference this year, and we all benefited from their presentations on subjects as varied as C-section to coccidiosis

Overall...

the feel of this weekend was very different from previous conferences. We are renowned for our informality, with a great deal of useful information being exchanged during social interaction ie. at the bar. This year we were equally relaxed but most of the interaction occurred during sessions, leading to a much more focused outcome