

Evidence Based Development of a Common Final Examination for Veterinary Undergraduates: a BEVME review

BAILLIE, S.,^{1,3**} RHIND, S.R.,^{1*} DOZIER, M.,² BROWN, F.,¹ HAMMICK, M.⁴

¹ Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Easter Bush, Roslin, Midlothian. EH25 9RG.

² Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Libraries, University of Edinburgh EH8 9LJ.

³ Lifelong and Independent Veterinary Education (LIVE), Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 7TA.

⁴ Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME) Consultant.

Contact: sbaille@rvc.ac.uk

Introduction

A project funded by the RCVS Trust is being undertaken in collaboration with BEME (Best Evidence Medical Education) to consider evidence to support the possibility of a common final year assessment for UK veterinary students. BEME promote, evaluate and disseminate evidence-based research in medical education. The current project represents the first such review in veterinary education.

Materials and Methods

A workshop held in September 2006 launched the project. Feedback from this meeting was combined with input from UK veterinary schools and a review of assessments used in medical education. This information was used to produce a list of assessment methods that formed the basis for a veterinary literature search.

Results

The search yielded very few papers. These were subject to the BEME review process with defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction and data synthesis.

Discussion/Conclusions

The study has found that there is little published evidence to support current practices in veterinary final year assessments. Therefore, a further study is proposed which expands the search to medical and associated professions. This investigation will focus on a topical area: assessments associated with the 'clinical encounter' comparing oral examinations in long cases with more structured formats