In brief

**ANAESTHESIA HELP:** Vetoquinol has teamed up with an anaesthesia experts to produce recommendations on small animal treatment. Practitioners and academics (such as Mark Senier of the University of Liverpool, independent consultant Polly Taylor and Elizabeth Leece of the Animal Health Trust) produced the Premedication and Anaesthesia in Dogs And Cats Guidelines during discussions in the company. For a copy of the recommendations, telephone 01306 456905.

**NUTRITION INFO:** Hill’s Pet Nutrition has expanded its online CPD offering. Practitioners can log onto its veterinary nutrition website (www.hillpetnutrition.co.uk/vet) to receive a monthly e-newsletter. The emails contain articles and summaries of interviews with academics and vets, practice management advice and CPD courses.

**EQUIPMENT RANGE:** Ark Surgical has added to its range of surgical equipment, following a supply deal with fellow distributor Cory Bros. The company has broadened its range of theatre equipment and devices to include new loupes, haemostatic instruments and laparoscopic suction and irrigation systems. For more details visit www.arksurgical.co.uk

**REGIONAL NEWS:** Royal Canin has appointed four regional veterinary business managers. Louise Machen will cover north-east Scotland, while former VN Gemma Cairns will cover north-east Scotland, while former VN Gemma Cairns will cover north-west Wales and Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and former VN, joins as manager for central Wales and Beverley, while former VN, joins as manager for central Wales and Beverley.

**DOG HEALTH:** Duchra Veterinary Products has donated £2,000 worth of Canasul ear drops to two UK animal charities. Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and Dogs Trust have been provided with the ear drops as part of Duchra’s corporate social responsibility programme.

**PROFITS RISE:** Veterinary group CVS has reported a 57 per cent rise in profits this year. The Northern Irish-based group operates more than 160 veterinary surgeries nationwide. In the past six months, the company has acquired 11 surgeries and a pet crematorium, and seen pre-tax profits rise to nearly £9m.

**ANIMAL THERAPY:** The Essex-based animal rehabilitation charity Horse Court has announced its annual Indulgence Day will take place on July 12. The event will include animal therapy lectures, human massage and holistic treatments. For more information, visit www.recoverycharity.org

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**MRSA: CALL FOR UK VETS TO TAKE LEAD ON PREVENTION**

**Briggs vets do more to educate owners and “get their houses in order” regarding methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), according to academics and owner awareness.

The calls follow the release of American research into bite-acquired infections.

Richard Oehler, an infectious disease specialist from the University of South Florida, found an increased risk of humans acquiring potentially fatal community-acquired infections from cat and dog bites.

Published in The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Dr Oehler’s paper, “Bite-related and septic syndromes caused by cats and dogs” examined the presentation of clinical cases and warns of the threat of community-acquired strains spreading back and forth between humans and animals. Reference is made to MRSA strain USA 300/ST8, which is becoming prevalent in America, as well as cases isolating other strains of multidrug-resistant S aureus.

**Good hygiene**

He said the profession needed to ensure good hygiene to prevent hospital-acquired infections in pets, and put more effort into training the human medical profession to monitor and treat community-acquired MRSA strains.

Tim Nutall, senior lecturer in dermatology at the University of Liverpool, applauded the good hygiene practices of British vets, but said there was still “scope for more when it comes to infection management”.

He said: “We can’t get complacent about this – it’s a danger that infections like MRSA could be put to the back of vets’ minds.”

“Even for the UK veterinary profession, antibiotic resistance is an uncommon occurrence at the moment; we’re not seeing anything like the massive incidences we are seeing in the US. So, we have a window of opportunity here to get our house in order and take the lead on the issue.”

Dr Nutall said vets needed to concentrate on tackling the root cause of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and ensure responsible use of antimicrobial drugs.

Jill Moss, founder of The Bella Moss Foundation, said she had been “inundated” with American enquiries about USA 300, and urged UK practitioners to take infection prevention seriously.

She said: “USA 300 is such a massive problem in the US – it’s only a matter of time before it comes here. We’re in a better position on MRSA than in the US. However, our animals are still in a vulnerable position and vets have got to take this seriously. We need more monitoring and surveillance – we’re getting very close, but there’s not enough being done. Vets need to do more to raise awareness.”

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**Exciting year ahead**

THC, new president of the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS), has forecast a “busy and exciting” year for the organisation, adding it was “on the case” regarding monitoring pig welfare and disease issues.

Peter Brown, pictured, of the George Veterinary Group in Malmesbury, Wilts, replaced Patrick Jeffery at the society’s annual meeting.

On assuming his new role, Mr Brown stressed that his priority for the year ahead was the control and elimination of endemic diseases, such as porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome – swine fever and swine dysentery.

“We have a great opportunity now to bring the whole of the pig industry, vets and regulators together to improve the health of the national herd and of pig health in this country,” he said.

Mr Brown said the PVS would be working with bodies such as the National Pig Association to identify pig keepers across the pig industry, vets and regulators together to improve the health of the national herd and of pig health in this country.” He said.

“They need to be put to the back of vets’ minds.

“He said: “We’re being proactive. But vets and farmers can help greatly in their role. We have a great opportunity now to bring the whole of the pig industry, vets and regulators together to improve the health of the national herd and of pig health in this country.” He said.

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