

## PARASITOLOGY SEMINAR TICKS ALL THE BOXES

Press Release  
September 2011

Experts in veterinary parasitology have been voicing their concern over the implications of the imminent changes to the UK's DEFRA-run Pet Travel Scheme (PETS), the system that allows certain species of animal to enter the UK without quarantine. Now the UK branch of ESCCAP (European Scientific Counsel Companion Animal Parasites), ESCCAP UK, will hold a free seminar in Bristol on 28<sup>th</sup> October to highlight the role that veterinary practices can play in helping clients understand how the changes could impact upon their pet's health.

Under the new regulations, which take effect from Jan 2012, tick control will no longer be mandatory. A recent study has already demonstrated that a population of exotic tick species has already become established in the south-east of England<sup>1</sup>. With up to 15,000 animals travelling under PETS each month, the possibility of exotic ticks (and their associated tick borne diseases) entering and establishing in the UK becomes increasingly likely. The European Parliament has yet to rule on mandatory tapeworm control. The decision will impact on the future distribution of, and disease threat from, *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

ESCCAP UK is advising all vets to discuss the risks with their clients and to ensure they make an informed decision about tick control when the new legislation comes into effect.

The seminar provides all the information clinicians will need to have this informed dialogue with clients. The presentations will provide an overview of the impact of the changes to PETS in relation to Rabies, *Echinococcus* and ticks, as well as advice about how to communicate the information to pet owners and the tools and support available. The ESCCAPUK website [www.esccapuk.org.uk](http://www.esccapuk.org.uk) is a useful resource for both vets, nurses and pet owners. It includes information, updates on the PETS situation, guidelines for parasite control programmes and podcasts.

The seminar takes place at Engineers' House, The Promenade, Clifton Down, Bristol BS8 3NB. Places are limited so those wishing to attend are advised to register as soon as possible by contacting ESCCAPUK on Tel: ++44 (0)1684 568998 Fax: ++44

(0)5603 102013, E-mail: [info@esccapuk.org.uk](mailto:info@esccapuk.org.uk)

1. Smith F D, Ballantyne R, Morgan E R, Wall R (2011) Prevalence, distribution and risk associated with tick infestation of dogs in Great Britain. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*. doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2915.2011.00954.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2915.2011.00954.x)