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Animal Health Information Specialists

The Animal Health Information Specialists (AHIS) group reconvened on Friday, May 19, at the Library, University of Surrey. The group has been in existence for over 20 years and aids collaboration between veterinary librarians and veterinary information specialists in the UK and Ireland. The group also has links into the veterinary librarian groups in Europe, North America, and elsewhere. AHIS exists to bring together all those who are employed or interested in the dissemination of animal health information, to foster co-operation and resource sharing, and to stimulate interest in related matters.

It is the first time that the group has formally met since November 2015 and gives rise to opportunities to promote animal health information and evidence-based veterinary medicine for animal health professionals, researchers and students. Present at the meeting were representatives from CABI, Defra/APHA, the Pirbright Institute and the Universities of Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Nottingham and Surrey.

Items discussed during the day included potential collaborative projects, standard literature searches for species, and resources to undertake literature searching. AHIS support for the advancement of evidence-based veterinary medicine through the production of Knowledge Summaries was also raised. Uptake of access to Vetstream for students via WikiVet was considered, along with the sharing of experience and advice with university reading list software. A tour of the new University of Surrey Veterinary School was taken in the afternoon.

Anyone with an interest in information provision within veterinary medicine can email Paul Cannon paul.cannon@glasgow.ac.uk for further information on the group and its work.

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