

**CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Putting research into practice

A Decade of BSAVA Research & CPD

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Is there a disconnect between veterinary research and experience in practice?

Introduction

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM) aims to undertake research directly relevant to veterinarians in clinical practice and to enhance the use of evidence in clinical decision making. In order to guide the subject areas selected for CEVM research, it is necessary to identify areas where clinicians perceive there to be the greatest gaps in knowledge. An analysis of the lecture and research abstract submission at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) Congress over the last 10 years may provide some insight into trends in veterinary priorities.

Methods

BSAVA abstracts, published in Congress proceedings, from 2001-2010 for the **Veterinary lecture stream (VS)** and the **Clinical research abstracts (CRA)** were examined and allocated to 22 research themes for the purposes of data analysis. The data were sorted by subject across both research streams per year, and combined across all ten years of BSAVA submission to allow an examination of annual trends in research and predominance of research interest.

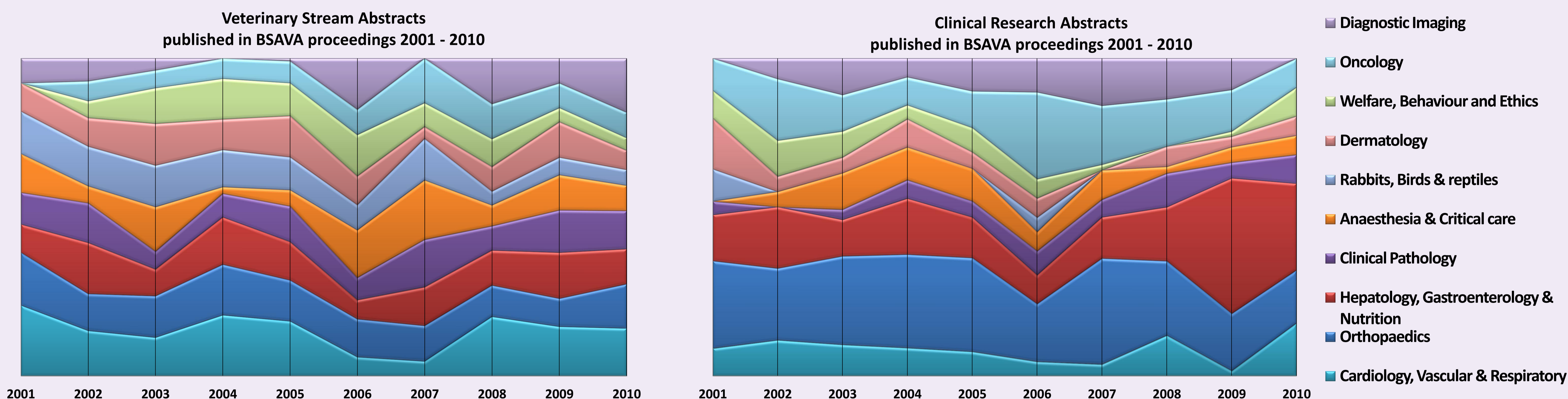


Fig 1. Comparison of the ten most common veterinary lecture topics, based on the number of VS abstracts published, with concomitant CRA abstracts published 2001 – 2010 as a proportion of total number presented per CRA and VS per theme (%). This allows a view of alignment between the priorities of CPD and teaching within veterinary research. The comparison suggests the veterinary stream remains relatively constant over time despite relative explosions in research within certain themes over the 10 year period.

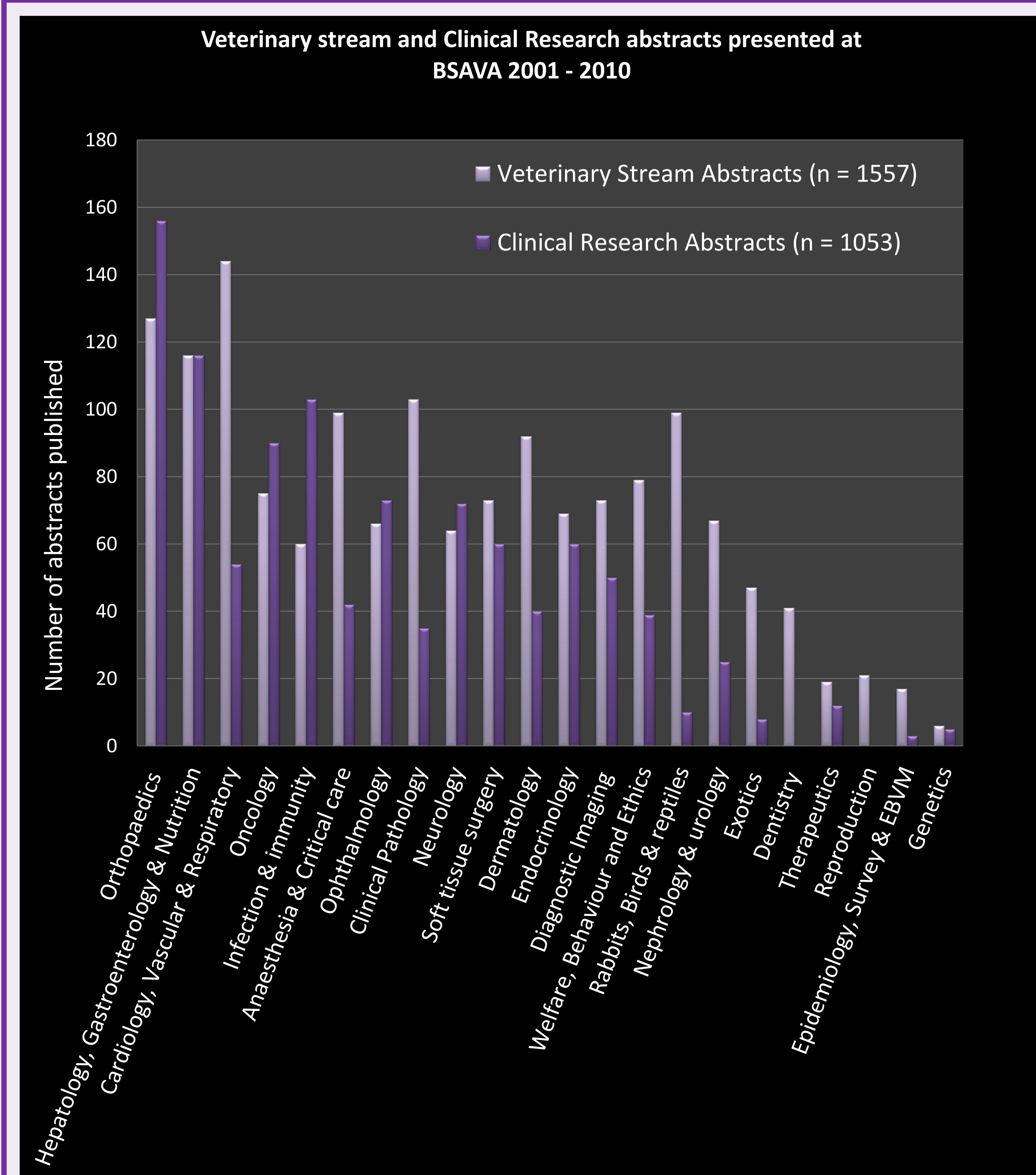


Fig 2. Comparison of subject area presented at BSAVA by total number of abstracts published for Veterinary stream lectures and Clinical research abstracts from 2001-2010.

Results

The most popular subject area for VS abstract submission over the last 10 years was Exotics ($n = 146$, range 7-24 per year), followed by Cardiology Vascular & Respiratory ($n = 144$, 5-20), and Orthopaedics ($n = 127$, 8-15). Further separation of the exotics group into two smaller groups *i) Rabbit, bird & reptile* ($n=99$), *ii) Exotics* ($n=47$), then altered the hierarchy with Cardiology, Vascular & Respiration becoming the highest group submission (Fig 2). Orthopaedics were the most popular submission in CRA ($n = 156$, 11-23), followed by Hepatology Gastroenterology & Nutrition ($n = 116$, 6-26) and Infection & Immunity ($n=103$, 1-14). There were annual variations in the focus across the themes for both VS and CRA abstracts over the 10 year period (Fig 1). Some themes, e.g. Dentistry, have featured in the VS lectures for 8 consecutive years (2003 – 2010), but never in the CRA. Conversely Reproduction featured occasionally within the VS but never in the CRA.

Discussion

An analysis of the VS and CRA abstracts presented at BSAVA over the last decade allowed an examination of the priorities of the congress over time. The findings, shown in Fig 1, highlight a possible disconnect between the veterinary research (CRA) presented and practical CPD delivered at BSAVA, which may have implications for strength of the evidence base used in veterinary CPD. Further research will focus on the research quality and the frequency of publication, of abstracts presented at BSAVA, as a measure of evidence based research in veterinary practice.

References

BSAVA Proceedings 2001 – 2010
L.Boden, T.Parkin and M.Thrusfield, 2010. A History in Data: SVEPM 1982-2009. *SVEPM Annual meeting*, Nantes, France.