**Application** Delivering motivational interviewing training to livestock veterinarians improves their communication knowledge and skills, which can be used to support farmer-veterinarian interactions about animal health and welfare, and behaviour change on-farm.

**Introduction** Livestock veterinarians play a key role assisting farmers to safeguard animal health and welfare. However, the communication style of livestock veterinarians has been shown to influence the nature of the farmer-veterinarian relationship and the enactment of veterinary advice (Bard et al., 2017; Grant et al., 2023). Veterinary communication styles focused on understanding farmers’ individual circumstances, collaborating to achieve a shared goal, and upholding autonomy, are valued by farmers and increase the likelihood of on-farm behaviour change (Bard et al., 2019; Grant et al., 2023). Yet, it is increasingly recognised that veterinarians must be supported to develop the necessary communication competencies through veterinary education and professional training (Mossop et al., 2015). Motivational interviewing, an evidence-based collaborative communication methodology aiming to help a person resolve their ambivalence towards change, has shown promise as a means of providing veterinarians with useful communication knowledge and skills (Svensson et al., 2020). Accordingly, this study aims to deliver and evaluate the feasibility of a brief motivational interviewing training programme for livestock veterinarians.

**Materials and Methods** A mixed-methods case study was conducted. Ethical approval was obtained from the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Queen’s University Belfast. The programme consisted of a 2-hour online module, two full day face-to-face workshops and a reflective practice session. Twelve veterinarians completed the online module and workshops, while five completed the reflective practice session. The programme was facilitated by a certified motivational interviewing trainer based in the animal health setting, along with a private veterinary practitioner trained in motivational interviewing. Evaluation consisted of assessing veterinarian satisfaction post-workshop via questionnaire, along with motivational interviewing skills using an adapted version of VASE-R (Video Assessment Simulated Encounters Revised). Additionally, to qualitatively assess programme delivery, learning and application of learning, trainers completed reflective logs and veterinarians participated in focus groups/interviews five months after the workshop. The quantitative data (satisfaction and motivational interviewing skills) was descriptively analysed. While qualitative data including trainer logs and focus group/interview data was thematically analysed.

**Results** Descriptive analysis found veterinarians were highly satisfied with the programme (mean = 4.4 out of 5-point Likert scale). Thematic analysis determined three themes: valuable activities, takeaways, and programme evolution. Scenario-based skills practice and open discussions were identified as important to the learning process. Veterinarians noted developing a greater awareness of their own personal communication patterns and increased knowledge of communication practices which promote successful conversations about change. Veterinarians also reported learning how to use motivational interviewing skills, such as reflections, which promote deeper listening and better understanding of others. This finding was supported by at least half of participants achieving beginner proficiency in VASE-R ‘Reflective Listening’ and ‘Summary’ sub-scale scores. Finally, incorporating additional skills practice and reflective activities into the curriculum was deemed beneficial. However, given the workload and seasonality associated with the role of the veterinarian, the timing and frequency of any additional activities must be carefully considered.

**Conclusions** Brief motivational interviewing training can help veterinarians become more aware of their own communication patterns and promote positive changes in communication skills. The findings are of relevance to those involved in veterinary continuing professional development, as a way of enhancing the skills of veterinarians to support farmers to enact behaviour change on-farm.

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