



SAVSNET



Research | Surveillance | Benchmarking

The votes are in

Visitors to our stand at BSAVA Congress chose which question they would like SAVSNET to answer from three options from the reasons for euthanasia, which dog breeds appear to be healthiest and use of parasiticides. With 59% of the votes, which dog breeds appear to be the healthiest was the winner.

Papers published

The passive surveillance of ticks using companion animal electronic health records. [Epidemiology and Infection.](#)

Patterns of antimicrobial agent prescription in a sentinel population of canine and feline veterinary practices in the United Kingdom. [The Veterinary Journal.](#)

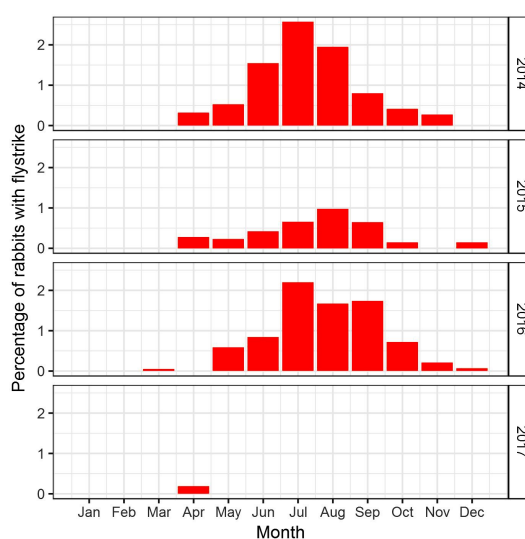
Demographics of dogs, cats, and rabbits attending veterinary practices in Great Britain as recorded in their electronic health records. [BMC Veterinary Research.](#)

Seasonal increase of deadly rabbit disease

Unfortunately, veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses will be all too aware of the devastating effects of flystrike in rabbits. SAVSNET used electronic health records from over rabbit consultations kindly submitted by veterinary practices. Computers were programmed to screen all clinical



records for suspect cases of flystrike and these records were read by a human researcher; this approach identified some 300 cases of flystrike among these rabbits. From this data, we were able to plot flystrike season below which shows the percentage of rabbits with flystrike from SAVSNET data from March 2014 to May 2017. Reports of flystrike increase from Spring to June and we encourage veterinary practices to use this evidence when discussing the preventative measures rabbit owners should be taking to keep their rabbits safe.



% of rabbits with flystrike from SAVSNET data from March 2014 to May 2017

Big data goes international

We have partnered up with Swedish team Naveda to develop shared programmes of Health Informatics surveillance, promising for the first time the ability to compare the health and welfare of companion animals in the UK and Sweden. Naveda is a collaboration between the National Veterinary Institute (SVA; Professor Ann Lindberg below), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Swedish association of Professional Veterinary Clinics (SLA-Svensk Djursjukvård), representing approximately 80% of the companion animal and horse sector in Sweden.



Together, we will look to work on shared projects with combined student projects over the next three years. This is an exciting new venture, providing the opportunity to compare the health of animal populations.

Take a fresh look at your antibiotic prescription

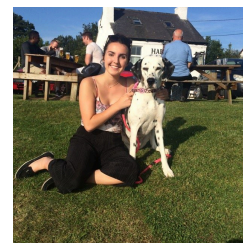


SAVSNET has launched a new service, mySavsnet AMR, that will allow any veterinary practice in the UK to anonymously compare their own antibiotic prescription against their peers. As antibiotic prescription is the main risk factor for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) development and transmission it is imperative that we, as a profession, demonstrate good antibiotic stewardship to preserve both efficacy and availability of antibiotics in veterinary species. At SAVSNET we believe that an important first step towards that aim is to understand how we, as individuals and practices, prescribe antibiotics so that we can start forming our own opinions about how responsible our antibiotic prescription really is based on real-world evidence. To take part in mySavsnet AMR, please visit www.savsnet.co.uk or email savsnet@liv.ac.uk.



Animal welfare student scholarship

University of Liverpool Bioveterinary Science student Gabrielle Lindley has been awarded a UFAW scholarship to investigate the risk factors for obesity in companion animals. Data from veterinary practices will be used to develop text mining algorithms to identify groups of overweight pets. This group will then be used with suitable control animals to identify the risk factors predisposing to obesity in this population. Gabrielle will be spending six weeks over the summer completing this project, and we are pleased to welcome her to the SAVSNET team.



As always, thank you for your support of SAVSNET and your interest in the work we do.