



SAVSNET



Research | Surveillance | Benchmarking

London Vet Show

Dr Alan Radford is talking with APHA's Richard Irvine on Friday 18th November at 12.35pm in the BVA Congress stream. The talk is entitled 'Big data: big opportunities' and we really hope you can make it to see what you are a part of!



Toxoplasmosis research

Welcome to Isabel Geiger, an MPhil student at University of Liverpool who is using SAVSNET data to investigate whether there is pattern in the distribution of *T.gondii* in the UK. It was during her Masters in International Health and Social Management that she realised her interest in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a way of combining her passion for medicine and numbers, and we are delighted to welcome her to the SAVSNET team.



Skin and staph surveillance

The third surveillance report of 2016 has been published in the Veterinary Record, focusing on pruritus and coagulase-positive staphylococci. Analysis of SAVSNET data from January 2014 to June 2016 revealed that topical antimicrobials were the most commonly prescribed pruritus treatments for dogs (33.6% of consultations), and for cats, it was systemic glucocorticoids (53.5% of consultations). In surveillance of coagulase-positive staphylococci, 16 per cent of 176 coagulase-positive staphylococci isolated from canine diagnostic samples were sensitive to all tested antibacterial classes; multidrug resistance (resistance to three or more antibacterial classes) was found in 6.8%. You can read the full report [here](#) and we always appreciate hearing from you so please get in touch if you have any thoughts on this work.



Remember, remember the 5th of November

Pet owners should be taking pets to the vets sooner to prepare them for firework season. SAVSNET researchers looked at the reasons for taking animals to the vets from over **100,000** consultations between September 2012 and July 2014 and found that only **75** were clearly related to firework fear. It was anticipated that there would be higher numbers seeking veterinary help as fearful reactions to loud noises such as fireworks is common. Even amongst those who do seek help, nearly half wait until the week before bonfire night, giving little time to help pets.

Text mining bootcamp

The second veterinary Clinical Text Mining Bootcamp was held on 15th September. This was a gathering of researchers from six universities and industry whose work on large clinical datasets could be augmented by acquiring text mining tools. Conceived during the first Farr@Vet meeting in Manchester in March, this has grown from a small gathering around a kitchen table to a second event at the Leahurst Campus, sponsored by the Python Foundation for which we are very grateful. The event was coordinated by Dr Jenny Newman with help from other members of the SAVSNET team and explored a variety of aspects relating to text mining. The next event will be in January 2017, but in the meantime text mining skills will be honed in on a dataset of over 2 million Tweets potentially relating to companion animals.



Promising pilots

SAVSNET currently has two pilot projects where in addition to electronic data, laboratory samples are being submitted to researchers here at the University of Liverpool.



The first pilot project has been made possible through a PetPlan Charitable Trust grant, and focuses on the spread of infection. Samples where virus infection is confirmed are sent to researchers at the University where further sequencing is performed.

The second pilot forms part of exciting PhD research focused on antimicrobial resistance. Our aim is to collect samples from laboratories so that comparison can be made between animal isolates and the published information on human isolates. This work is funded by SAVSNET, University of Liverpool and the VMD.



We are grateful to the laboratories we have spoken with about this work to date for their generosity, interest and willingness to support this work. This is a significant step for SAVSNET, one which we hope will open up many opportunities for future work.

Big data for research

SAVSNET data is available for use in research, whether by academic institutions or companies. We welcome enquiries from those interested in using data where we can discuss your area of interest and requirements. The application to use SAVSNET data is overseen by the Data Access and Publication Panel, and the SAVSNET team can provide the help required for preparing your application. Should you wish to informally discuss your potential project, please contact us on info@savsnet.co.uk.

Thank you for your support and interest in the work we do!