



# SAVSNET

Research | Surveillance | Benchmarking

## Ready to grow

We are now receiving data from some 6000 veterinary consults a day and some 80,000 test results from diagnostic laboratories. We will be working to collect even more veterinary data in the coming years to build the SAVSNET resource to benefit both animals and humans.

## Jetsetter pets

We hosted A-Level students as part of an Institute of Infection and Global Health Summer Science School. Students used SAVSNET data to investigate the travel of pets within Europe, which could be useful in understanding the risk of exotic diseases. Top resorts were France and Spain, but other interesting countries included Poland and Romania.

## AWF sponsorship

The Animal Welfare Federation is sponsoring SAVSNET which will help to continue ongoing developments in disease monitoring, reporting and feedback. We are delighted to have the support of AWF!



## Babesiosis and tick activity



An open access paper describing canine babesiosis and tick activity using data contributed by Idexx and TDDS has been published in The Veterinary Record. Babesia diagnosis was rare and sporadic in most areas of

the UK but there was a clear focus in the affected area of Essex. We encourage readers to refer to the full paper which is openly available [here](#) and to use the SAVSNET interactive map of Babesia diagnosis which is available [here](#).

## Big data funding boost

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has awarded SAVSNET £700k to expand the database of UK pet health records and support more 'big data' research into animal and human diseases. This new funding will enable more laboratories and veterinary practices to contribute data and will also support the development of an online 'one-stop-shop' for researchers to access and analyse the data more easily. Links with the Farr Institute at the University of Manchester, which uses big data to advance medical research, will also be strengthened through the development of text mining tools, to unlock research meaning from clinical data entered by vets and nurses.





## Tackling antimicrobial resistance

David Singleton (far left) is in the first year of his PhD focusing on AMR and he is already making great progress in helping understand this significant issue.

David is working on national surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and prescription in companion animals, and recently was awarded the Postgraduate Student Inspiration Award at the International Canine Health Awards run by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust.

David is preparing for an exciting step in his PhD which is to be able to collect laboratory samples of interest which are identified through SAVSNET for further testing here at The University of Liverpool. David is particularly grateful for the enthusiasm of laboratories in helping support this quest.

David's PhD is funded by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, SAVSNET and the University of Liverpool.

## Surveillance reports

SAVSNET is the provider of quarterly surveillance reports in The Veterinary Record. You may have already seen the first two reports focusing on gastrointestinal and respiratory disease. The next report is due around September, and will focus on skin disease as well as including comments on the current VHD2 situation affecting rabbits. These reports are a great way to see how the data submitted by laboratories and veterinary practices are being used. If you have any questions or comments on the reports, we would be very interested to hear from you, and we really hope that you find these publications of interest.

## Cefovecin and cats

The Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery has published a paper describing the work of colleagues at the University of Bristol and SAVSNET to investigate the use of cefovecin in cats and how this use compares to the licensed use described on the UK Convenia datasheet. Data from 1148 consultations between September 2012 and 2013 were classified according to the body system treated, confirmation or suspicion of an abscess, whether microbiological evaluation was performed, concurrent therapies used and whether there was any reason for choosing Convenia. The most common body system treated with cefovecin was skin, followed by urinary and respiratory complaints. Most records did not state the reason for choosing cefovecin over other antimicrobials, but in those



that did (12%), the inability to orally medicate the cat was the most common reason (55.8%). You can read the abstract and paper [here](#).

## And finally.. Thank you

As ever, thank you for ongoing participation in SAVSNET. The willingness of the veterinary profession to support important research and surveillance was such an important part of our recent BBSRC award, and we hope this newsletter gives you a taste for how your participation and support is being put to good use.