FAVSNET
Farm Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network
Summary Sheet

An initiative from

Arwain DGC
Defnydd Gwrthficrobaidd Cyfrifol
Responsible Antimicrobial Use

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

What does FAVSNET do?

We collect electronic health data from veterinary practices and laboratories across the UK. Extracts will be used by scientists to help improve the health of the nation's farm animal population.

Why is your veterinary practice taking part in FAVSNET?

There are a growing number of veterinary practices, laboratories, universities and organisations who all care about farm animal health and welfare that take part in FAVSNET. The data provided by your practice will be used to understand when farm animals get illnesses, and why some may be more likely to get a particular disease. With this information, we can reduce the risk of farm animals getting ill, and if they do, offer improved advice and treatments.

How can your farm animals take part?

If you are happy for your farm animals to be involved, you don't need to do anything. We will automatically collect the following types of information each time you visit your veterinary surgeon or your veterinary surgeon visits you:

- Species, breed, age, sex, castration status and microchip number
- Weight/ body condition score
- Vaccination history
- Why your animals were visited by the vet or brought to the vets
- The notes written from the visit
- Items purchased, treatments given and drugs prescribed
- Insurance status
- Farm/ owner postcode
- Unique anonymised identification numbers assigned to just you and your farm animals

We will not record your name, or the rest of your address, or any payment details. Occasionally a vet may write names or addresses in your consultation notes - where possible, the vast of majority of these are automatically removed and for those that are not, we regularly update the software, so they are captured in future. Regardless, no identifiers are ever used for our research – this is of utmost importance and something our ethical approval relies on. FAVSNET is approved through the University of Liverpool ethics committee (RETH01082).

How to opt-out of FAVSNET

If you decide to opt out of FAVSNET, this will have no impact on the care your animals receive in this veterinary practice . Owners can request for their data to be removed from FAVSNET retrospectively by completing an opt-out form on the FAVSNET webpage (www.liverpool.ac.uk/FAVSNET/ removing-your-farm animal's-data). Veterinary practice staff can also complete this form on an owner's behalf. All requests to remove data will be actioned, unless data has already been included in an active research dataset or already published, in which case the data will be used for no further research.

What will FAVSNET do with your information?

All the information we collect is stored securely at the University of Liverpool where it is used by FAVSNET and FAVSNET-approved researchers to better understand what makes farm animals like yours unwell and to aid disease prevention. As well as scientific publications, results will be presented on our website to improve understanding of disease locally.

Sometimes anonymous data may also be used to generate income (for example with companies) through the completion of reports such as work on specific diseases or treatments. Any income is only used to support the sustainability of FAVSNET, ensuring that all farm animals in the UK can continue to benefit from this research for as long as possible.

Protecting your privacy

FAVSNET has a responsibility under the Data Protection Act 2018 to protect your personal information. Your information will be protected in the same way. You and your farm animals will never be identifiable from any of the work outputs that use these data. FAVSNET has ethical approval from the University of Liverpool. Benchmarking and clinical data research provides a tangible benefit to UK veterinary practice. In recognition of this, the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme awards points to practices that contribute clinical data to FAVSNET. The ethical approval reference for FAVSNET is RETH01082.

Further information

Visit our website for a downloadable FAVSNET handbook which has more information on FAVSNET.
Web: www.liverpool.ac.uk/FAVSNET/
Social media: @FAVSNET
Email: FAVSNET@liverpool.ac.uk
Tel: 0151 795 6080 (24-hour messaging service to request further information).

Write to us at: FAVSNET, University of Liverpool, Leahurst Campus, Neston, Wirral, CH64 7TE

You can also contact the University of Liverpool, Research Ethics and Integrity Office if you have any further concerns. Their contact details can be found in your practice's FAVSNET handbook that can be found on our website.