



## RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

# MYXOMATOSIS

## SEASONALITY AND RISK FACTORS

[Full paper published in Preventive Veterinary Medicine available here](#)

*Thank you to all practices, independents and CVS, for participating in SAVSNET and making this research possible*

1



### MYXOMATOSIS

Myxomatosis is a highly contagious, frequently fatal viral disease affecting both wild and domesticated European rabbits across many areas of the world.

2



### STUDY

89,408 rabbit electronic health records collected between March 2014 and June 2019. 207 (0.23 %) cases where myxomatosis was the only differential diagnosis recorded.

3



### SEASONALITY

No cases were reported in February. The majority of cases occurred between August-November. However, there was also evidence for considerable variation between years.

4



### RISK FACTORS

Important risk factors for myxomatosis within this pet animal population included season, sex, age, vaccination status and distance to likely wild rabbit habitats.

5



### BEHAVIOUR

Female entire rabbits were twice as likely to be a case (OR 1.98, 95 % CI 1.26–3.13,  $p = 0.003$ ), suggesting a novel role for behaviour in driving transmission.

6



### VACCINATION

Vaccination had the largest protective effect with vaccinated rabbits being 8.3 times less likely to be a case than unvaccinated rabbits (OR = 0.12, 95 % CI 0.06-0.21,  $p < 0.001$ ).