

Information sheet



The Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network Antibiotic Prescription Tracker

Researcher(s): Alan Radford, David Singleton, PJ Noble, Phil Jones, Beth Heayns, Fernando Sanchez-Vizcaino, Steven Smyth and Elena Arsevska

You are being invited to participate in a research and surveillance study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

Aims of the study

To understand the variability in antibiotic use in anonymised veterinary practices, and factors that may impact on it.

Why are you being asked to take part?

Antibiotics are precious clinical therapies that must be used with care. As a profession we need to understand their use both at a national level, but also within our own clinical practice.

Through Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network (SAVSNET), we already collect such data from around 10% of the practices in the UK. Some of this work has recently been published (goo.gl/6a1Llh). As well as contributing to research, practices taking part in SAVSNET also benefit from free benchmark statistics, allowing them to see, amongst other things, how their antibiotic use compares with their anonymised peers.

In this project, we are looking to provide a similar service for those practices who are currently NOT taking part in SAVSNET. This will allow us to understand practice variability in antibiotic use across the UK, whilst simultaneously providing anonymised benchmarking of antibiotic use back to all participating practices.

Participation is entirely voluntary – you are reading this information sheet because someone in your practice has requested to receive information on this project.

What will you need to do to take part?

To take part, you will need to

A: complete the attached consent form

B: complete the attached questionnaire with summary data on the type of practice you work for.

C: complete the enclosed spreadsheet for at least 200 consultations.

It is important you do not preselect these – the easiest data to send us is from the most recent 200 consultations. In addition, to be consistent across the project, it is important these data come from booked consultations, where an owner has made an appointment to see a veterinary surgeon. Please do not send data from other data entry events such as telephone calls, reception sales, or inpatients.

You can send one data set or many. For example you may want to compare, cats to dogs, or two different time points within your own practice. You may want to compare weekends to weekdays. You may want to compare between different sites, or even between different clinicians. If you want to compare, then please send 200 consultations from each population to compare. Whichever datasets you send us, by signing the consent form *you are agreeing you have permission to send us the data, and will only use the supplied feedback for internal practice audit.*

Method

In order to provide participating practices with a benchmark of antibiotic use, data from your practice will be compared to anonymised comparable data both from within SAVSNET and also from others participating in this new initiative.

For research purposes, your anonymised data will be compared to similar anonymised data. Variation in antibacterial use will be described. Anonymised factors associated with high or low levels of antibacterial use, based on data you sent us in your practice questionnaire, will be identified.

What to do if you are unhappy?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Alan Radford (0151 794 6121) and we will take appropriate action immediately. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the Research Governance Officer on 0151 794 8290 (ethics@liv.ac.uk). When contacting the Research Governance Officer, please provide details of the name or description of the study (VREC555), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.”

Confidentiality

Your results from the study will be kept in the upmost confidence and any data that may be published in the future by us will be anonymised to prevent identification of your data. Feedback will be sent to you based on the data you send us. It is equally important that the confidential nature of this is maintained, and it is only used for agreed audit within your practice.

You can withdraw from the study at any time, without explanation. Results up to the period of withdrawal may be used, if you are happy for this to be done. Otherwise you may request that they are destroyed and no further use is made of them.

Alan Radford BSc, PhD, BVSc, MRCVS
University of Liverpool
Leahurst Campus
Chester High Road
Neston, CH64 7TE

David Singleton MSc, BVSc, MRCVS
University of Liverpool
Leahurst Campus
Chester High Road
Neston, CH64 7TE