



# SAVSNET

Research Surveillance Benchmarking

Spring 2019

## Can SAVSNET be used to improve reporting of suspected adverse reactions?



Veterinary  
Medicines  
Directorate

In February this year, we welcomed Heather Davies MPharm MRPharmS to our team to investigate whether SAVSNET could be used to improve reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs). Heather is a pharmacist whose background is in pharmacovigilance, and she is completing a PhD funded by the VMD, University of Liverpool and SAVSNET.

Currently, suspected ADRs identified in clinic are voluntarily reported to the regulatory authority, VMD or manufacturing pharmaceutical company. In human medicine a similar scheme leads to reporting of only 10 % of suspected ADRs; there is also likely to be significant under reporting in veterinary medicine.

Electronic health records (EHRs) held within computerised practice management systems (PMS) hold a huge amount of data on prescribed treatments and outcomes for patients, including data regarding possible ADRs.

Heather's work has the potential to change how suspected ADR's are reported and enhance the identification of ADR's. If you have any questions for Heather, please email [H.H.Davies@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:H.H.Davies@liverpool.ac.uk).

### What's Inside?

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#### Easter and chocolate risk

Our [paper](#) published in the Vet Record in 2017 described the seasonality of chocolate ingestion. Chocolate ingestion has a unique seasonal pattern especially in the run-up to Christmas and Easter.

Remind your clients about the risks of chocolate and what to do in case of ingestion.





## Are your clients ready to fight flystrike?

Published research using SAVSNET data confirmed the clear seasonal pattern to flystrike in rabbits. Some cases were recorded as early as April, but there was a peak number of cases recorded in the summer between June and August. We also showed that entire does were most at risk.

Where flystrike was recorded, 45% of rabbits were reported as being euthanised.

Now is a good time to raise awareness amongst rabbit owners, especially those of entire does, of the importance of taking preventative measures against flystrike and what to do if it is identified.

To help, we have a poster which was funded by Dechra and Rabbit Awareness Week 2018 which can be downloaded [here](#). We also have a summary infographic which can be downloaded [here](#) which also contains a link to the full paper.



**Animal POISONLine** +  
24hr advice for owners  
01202 509000

# Xylitol toxicity

Working with the Veterinary Poisons Information Service who provide Animal POISONLine, we used SAVSNET data to investigate xylitol toxicity after the well publicised case of Ruby shown above, who sadly died after eating two homemade chocolate brownies. The letter was published in the Veterinary Record and can be accessed [here](#).

We identified 26 cases of xylitol ingestion in dogs between May 2015 and October 2018 with the majority of dogs having eaten chewing gum.

Treatments included emetics, some followed by anti-emetics, gastroprotectants, activated charcoal, intravenous fluids and intravenous glucose. Twelve cases received no treatment. Thankfully, there was no evidence any of these cases died.

Animal POISONLine has a poster which can be downloaded displayed in veterinary practices to help raise awareness.

Our publication list is available [here](#)



## Welcome Axiom and BattLab

We are pleased to announce that Axiom Veterinary Laboratories Ltd and BattLab Ltd have agreed to join SAVSNET and contribute laboratory data for research and surveillance. The support of Axiom and BattLab will enhance SAVSNET's laboratory database and further support important research of diseases recorded by laboratories in the UK. Our current main focus is to use these data to look at patterns of antimicrobial resistance.



## Pebbles is one in a million!

Pebbles the Border Collie became the one millionth dog to contribute data to SAVSNET.

The million milestone was achieved thanks to the participation of YourVets24 Rayleigh, part of CVS which has been supporting SAVSNET since June last year.

SAVSNET cannot identify individual animals or their owners, but by providing the practice with the details of the visit, the practice team was able to ask the owner if they were willing to be involved in publicising the announcement. To celebrate, we sent some goodies to the practice for Pebbles, her owner and the practice team.

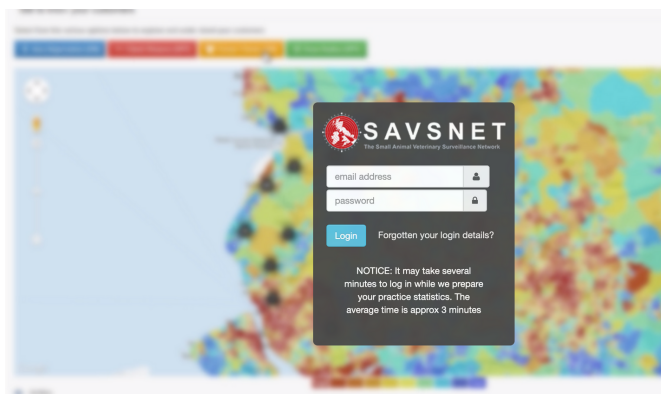


## Posters, portals and PSS

All participating practices will soon receive packs containing new practice materials which must be displayed under approval granted by the University of Liverpool Ethics Committee and also to ensure compliance with GDPR. Packs will be sent to the main practice site and materials will need to be shared amongst branches.

**Please ensure the reception know to expect to receive this pack and what to do with it. It will be sent by recorded delivery.**

If your practice hasn't yet registered for your [SAVSNET portal](#), instructions will be included. Don't forget to claim your 40 points for the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme (PSS) for taking part in SAVSNET!



# PROTECT ME



## SAVSNET's free service, mySavsnet AMR, recommended in latest PROTECT ME guidelines

One of the greatest global health challenges currently facing both doctors and veterinary surgeons is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The key driver of AMR development is antimicrobial use, and as such all prescribers have a collective responsibility to ensure that antimicrobials are prescribed appropriately – this includes veterinary surgeons treating companion animals.

Here at SAVSNET we regularly describe antimicrobial prescription frequency and antimicrobial resistance prevalence in the UK companion animal population, and have become increasingly interested in how we can use these insights to promote responsible antimicrobial prescribing decisions in the veterinary practices we work with. Interestingly, we have also shown that antimicrobial use is reducing, at least for [gastrointestinal disease](#).



We recently assisted with development of new antimicrobial prescribing guidance, led by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) and the Small Animal Medicine Society (SAMSoc): the PROTECT ME guidance. The PROTECT ME guidance outlines necessity for antimicrobial prescription for a range of common canine and feline clinical conditions, and is based on latest available clinical evidence. PROTECT ME also recommends practices to MONITOR their antimicrobial prescription.

Veterinary practices taking part in SAVSNET already have access to an online secure anonymised free benchmarking website which allows them to compare their antimicrobial prescription to other practices taking part in SAVSNET.

Additionally, for those not yet able to take part in SAVSNET, we offer a further free service, [mySavsnetAMR](#). We would encourage veterinary practitioners to view the new PROTECT ME guidance, and to further consider whether antimicrobial prescription benchmarking might have a place in your practice's commitment to antimicrobial stewardship.

## On behalf of the SAVSNET team, thank you for your ongoing support and interest in the work we do

We have sent you our newsletter because you opted in to the mailing list. If you would prefer to not receive our quarterly newsletter anymore, please contact us at [savsnet@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:savsnet@liverpool.ac.uk)