

What information is collected?

VetCompass collects information about the disorders and treatment of animals under veterinary care. The project does not collect client names, addresses or financial details.

Specific data collected include species, breed, age, sex, weight, microchip code and partial postcode. Also included are clinical examination, diagnosis and treatment information, to enable disease categorisation according to breed, age and sex.

Partial postcode is used to map the level of disease across different parts of the country but provides only postal sector information.

VetCompass data collection, storage and usage are fully compliant with relevant data protection regulations. All published results are anonymised.



For further information on the **VetCompass** project visit www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass or email vetcompass@rvc.ac.uk

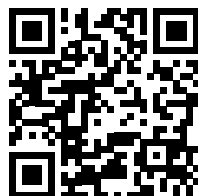
Our thanks

The **VetCompass** Animal Surveillance team sincerely thanks veterinary practice teams and their clients who participate in this collaborative project, which will benefit animal health and welfare.

Supported by:



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RVC Royal
Veterinary
College
University of London



Gathering clinical health data for
the benefit of companion animals

VetCompass
Your Knowledge Hub

This veterinary practice is one of many taking part in a nationwide project aimed at better reporting of the types and characteristics of disease affecting companion animals in the UK.

All veterinary practices routinely record clinical information about the animals they treat. Practices participating in the **VetCompass Animal Surveillance** project provide coded data from these consultations, which are merged to create a comprehensive national database providing detailed information about the health of companion animals.

The **VetCompass** project is led by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), in collaboration with the University of Sydney and colleagues at Cambridge and Lincoln Universities. The project collects information from veterinary consultations, in order to present a picture of national disease levels in companion animals. The data are also used to identify risk factors for disorders and observe the progress of animals diagnosed with certain conditions over time.

Veterinary practices receive no payment for participation in **VetCompass** and are taking part in order to contribute to a happier and healthier future for animals in their care.



Working together towards better diagnosis and treatment

Vets working in general practice are concerned with the health and welfare of their animal patients and the prevention and spread of disease.

Your pet's clinical records are held securely in individual practice computer systems. **VetCompass** joins key data together to present an overview of veterinary diagnoses and treatment, much like a jigsaw. Each individual jigsaw piece on its own may not explain much, but when combined, the full picture is revealed.

Data collected are used by researchers at the RVC to find out more about diseases and their underlying causes. This will help to inform and improve medical treatment for companion animals.

“
The RCVS
acknowledges the
important role of
primary practice
databases in
progressing our
understanding of
companion animal
disease, health
and welfare.”

Royal College of
Veterinary Surgeons



Why is VetCompass so Important?

Although veterinary surgeons are able to diagnose and treat many medical conditions seen in companion animals, there remain a large number of disorders which could be better identified, treated or prevented by a greater understanding of the risk factors.

To date, **VetCompass** studies have estimated the prevalence of and identified risk factors for several important disorders including epilepsy, chronic kidney disease and diabetes mellitus in dogs as well as hyperthyroidism in cats

Data collected and analysed through **VetCompass** continue to increase veterinarians' knowledge of companion animal disease. Current projects include a PhD funded by Pet Plan Charitable Trust exploring the clinical progress of dogs with mitral valve (heart) disease and a project to prioritise disorders of dogs based on their welfare impact, supported by Dogs Trust.

What do I need to do?

Unless you say otherwise, your practice team will assume that you are happy for records from your consultations to be collected as part of this project. Please tell a member of practice staff if you do not wish to participate.

Ethical approval

VetCompass has been approved by the RVC's Ethics and Welfare Committee. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the regulatory body for the veterinary profession in the UK, endorses the aims of the project.

