

Now, this data comes from a couple of papers that were published by the Vet Compass Group from the Royal Family College at the top and the SAVSNET group funded by BSAVA and based at the University of Liverpool at the bottom.

And by interrogating practice software, really, for the first time in veterinary practice, we've been able to look at the records for hundreds of thousands of animals rather than figures in the tens or hundreds. So the data-- this is the first time we've really had access to reliable big data.

And what this showed is, somewhere between a fifth and a third, rough averaging out at about a quarter of the dogs and cats across both of these studies received at least one antibiotic course. And many of them received more than one.

Most of these were broad spectrum antibiotics. And there was quite a high prevalence of use of what are known as HP-CIAs, which is the highest priority, critically important antibiotic classes-- that both veterinary and human health care really should be trying to minimise the use of these as much as possible.

A couple of things that we'd just like to pick out from this study. One here is the very common use of the cefovecin, a third generation cephalosporin in both of these studies. So it's 36% in the SAVSNET study and 30% of the cats in the Vet Compass study. And we have to ask whether that was entirely necessary and whether there were other antimicrobials that could have been used in those cases.

And then moving down to the SAVSNET study, if we look at the dogs here, 51% of the dogs presenting with pruritus, were given at least one systemic antibiotic course. Now pruritus, or itches, is what I do. That's my day job as a clinical dermatologist. And these days, nothing like a half of my cases are going to receive a systemic antibiotic.

So we need to get better about the way that we think of infection.