

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

First analysis of non-core vaccination rates in cats and dogs across the US exposes gaps in protection¹



Key Gaps in Protection

Nationwide, in cats and dogs current on their core vaccines at primary care practices:

- **63.2%** of kittens and 1-year-old cats were **NOT vaccinated for FeLV** despite FeLV being considered a core vaccine for cats of this age
- **37%** of dogs were **NOT currently vaccinated against *Leptospira spp.*** despite expert recommendation to consider Leptospirosis a core vaccine in most clinics
- **> 40%** of dogs in Lyme endemic states **with potential exposure to the tick vector** were **NOT currently vaccinated against *Borrelia burgdorferi***

Practical Implications

Clinicians should:

- **Revisit clinic vaccination protocols** to ensure alignment with expert recommendations
- Use **combination vaccines** to help increase compliance and **close gaps in patient protection**

Study Objective

To determine non-core vaccination rates of dogs and cats current on their core vaccines in veterinary practices across the US.

Study Design

To qualify for the study, pets had to be current on their core vaccines according to their primary care clinic's 1-year or 3-year protocol.*

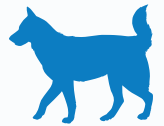


HCP for cats

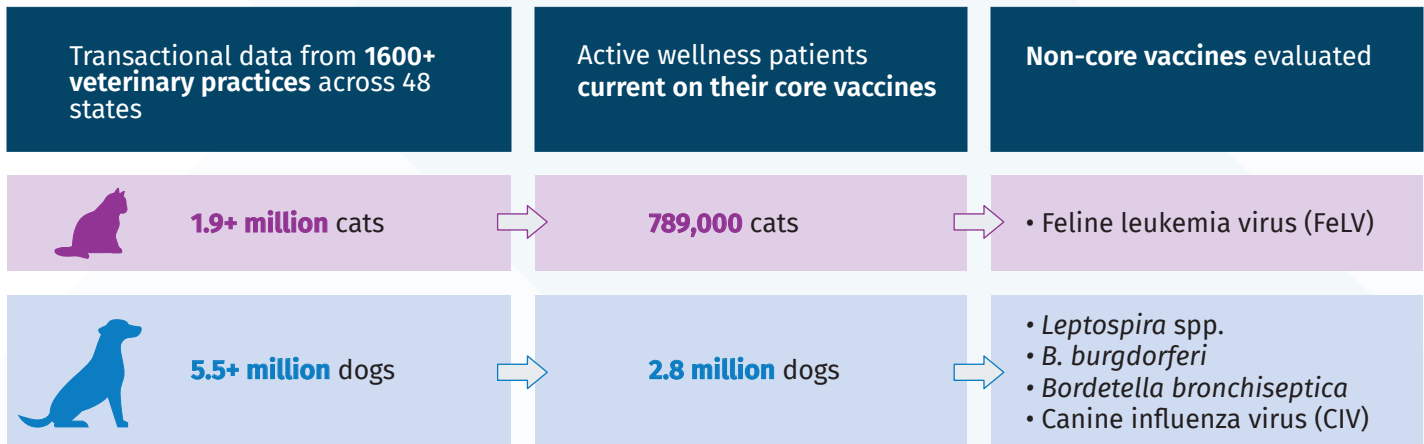
- Herpesvirus-1
- Calicivirus
- Parvovirus

DAP for dogs







- Distemper virus
- Adenovirus
- Parvovirus



*The rabies vaccine is a less predictable indicator of dogs and cats that are active wellness patients, so HCP (cats) and DAP (dogs) were chosen to better quantify non-core vaccine rates.



Non-core vaccination rates reported in this study are likely to greatly overestimate that of the broad US pet population, as only dogs and cats likely to have been recommended a non-core vaccine by their primary care clinic were evaluated.

	Expert Recommendation	Gap Identified by Study	Recommended Action
<p>FELINE LEUKEMIA</p> 	<p>Considered core for kittens & 1-year-old cats</p> <p>- 2020 AAHA / AAFP Vaccination Guidelines²</p>	 <p>63.2% of kittens and 1-year-old cats were NOT vaccinated for FeLV (vaccination rate should be 100%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use combination vaccines that pair FeLV with other core antigens (HCP), especially in kittens and 1-year-old cats
<p>CANINE LEPTOSPIROSIS</p> 	<p>Should be considered core in geographic locations in which infection occurs in urban backyard dogs</p> <p>- 2010 ACVIM Consensus Statement on Leptospirosis³</p>	 <p>37% of dogs were NOT vaccinated against <i>Leptospira</i> spp., which puts the majority of these dogs at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider making a core vaccine for your practice Use combination vaccines that pair <i>Leptospira</i> spp. with other core antigens (DAP)
<p>CANINE BORRELIOSIS</p> 	<p>Lyme vaccination plus tick control is recommended to protect dogs in emerging and endemic areas</p> <p>- Companion Animal Parasite Council guidelines⁴</p>	 <p>> 40% of dogs in Lyme endemic states with potential exposure to the tick vector were NOT currently vaccinated against <i>B. burgdorferi</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure dogs at risk for tick exposure are vaccinated against Lyme disease Use Lyme combination vaccines to increase compliance

Key Takeaways

- According to experts, some non-core vaccinations **should be considered core**, including:
 - Feline leukemia** in young cats²
 - Canine leptospirosis** in most geographies across the US³
- Protection against **canine Lyme disease** is best accomplished with a **combination of tick prevention and vaccination**
- In the study, some individual clinics were already **treating FeLV & Leptospirosis like a core vaccine**, with vaccination rates of 99.9 to 100%

Did you know?



In a study of more than 1 million dogs, the two factors associated with an **increased rate of adverse events** within 3 days of vaccination were: ⁵

Dogs < 20 lbs



of injections



“Leptospirosis should be considered a core vaccine in most clinics based on our current understanding of the risk factors.”

– **Dr. George Moore**, DVM, PhD
Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

References

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