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

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### 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.*

*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.

### Transnational data from 1600+ veterinary practices across 48 states

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1.9+ million cats</th>
<th>789,000 cats</th>
<th>5.5+ million dogs</th>
<th>2.8 million dogs</th>
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<td><strong>HCP for cats</strong></td>
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<td>Herpesvirus-1</td>
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<td><strong>DAP for dogs</strong></td>
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<td>Distemper virus</td>
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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.
### Key Takeaways

- According to experts, some non-core vaccinations **should be considered core**, including:
  - **Feline leukemia** in young cats
  - **Canine leptospirosis** in most geographies across the US

- 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%

### References