AAHA Diagnostic Terms (A SUBSET OF SNOMED CT®)

Better Information. Better Medicine.

The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

What is the diagnostic subset?

A list of clinical findings and diagnoses of small animal patients extracted from SNOMED CT® (a master "language" endorsed by AVMA for use in veterinary systems). The subset was first released in 2010 and is updated semi-annually. It is an important initial step on the path to a single terminology for veterinary medicine.

Features of the subset:
- **~3,500 medical concepts** to cover over 90% of cases seen in small animal practice
  (Addison's disease, Adverse reaction to drug)
- **Veterinary specific** (Feline acne, Canine parvovirus infection)
- **~2,800 additional synonyms** of medical concepts
  (Pulmonary collapse ~ Atelectasis)
- Documentation available
- Veterinarians involved in evolution of the terminology as medicine advances
- Maintained by Veterinary Terminology Services Laboratory (VTSL), which has 15 years of SNOMED® experience
- Common distribution file (XML)
- Compatible with other systems that use SNOMED® (e.g. AAEP subset, USDA, ISIS, VMDB)
- Access to SNOMED® definitions and hierarchy for enhanced retrieval of cases
- No end user fees

Who will use the subset?

Veterinary practices and associated supporting entities (pet insurance, diagnostic labs, etc.)

What are the benefits?

- **Practice analytics** enhanced case retrieval:
  - Local disease prevalence
  - Analyze treatment costs
  - Outcomes assessments
  - Client information
  - New therapies
- **Electronic communication** supported
  - Clinic ⟷ Referral hospital
  - Clinic ⟷ Diagnostic lab
- **Single terminology technology**
  - Facilitates EHR development:
    - Independent of species
    - Independent of specialty

How to use the subset

For optimal use, the subset should be incorporated into software that supports electronic medical records.

Where do I get the subset?

The subset is available for download at aahanet.org/Library/DiagTerms.aspx and VTSL's website at vtsl.vetmed.vt.edu/aaha/.

For more information contact:
> **American Animal Hospital Association**
> Denise Greenwell (denise.greenwell@aahanet.org)
> **Veterinary Terminology Services Laboratory**
> Dr. Jeff Wilcke (jwilcke@vt.edu)
> Dr. Suzanne Santamaria (slsantamaria@vt.edu)
> Dr. Julie Green (jmgreen@vt.edu)