
Enhancing the AAHA & AAEP Diagnostic Subsets

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Helmuth von Moltke

“No battle plan survives contact with the enemy.”



Seth Godin

“No software design survives a collision with the user”

AAHA & AAEP Diagnostic Terms

- Lists of veterinary concepts represented by standardized terms.
- “Interoperable” with SNOMED CT®
 - and other SNOMED-based lists
- Include (only) terms used by veterinarians
 - Account for acceptable synonyms
 - Provide indication of “preference”

AAHA & AAEP Diagnostic Terms

- **Concept list (subset) + description list (subset) + description labels**
 - **Creates abilities:**
 - Standardize MEANING
 - Do NOT restrict language choices
 - Language manipulated by experts
 - CAN be manipulated locally
- **These are “reference subsets” of SNOMED CT®**
 - **Provide concepts and manipulate language**
 - **IHTSDO calls these “REFSETS”**

AAHA & AAEP Diagnostic Terms

- **AAHA refset (April 15th release)**
 - 3505 Concepts
 - 6315 Descriptions (terms)
- **AAEP refset (April 15th release)**
 - 1111 Concepts
 - 1815 Descriptions
- **Overlap**
 - 366 concepts
 - Description preferences are not identical

Refset lifecycle

- **Creation of refset ID**
 - The original state of the refset is zero content.
- **ALL content in a refset is addition, replacement or removal.**

Refset logical structure

- **Two lists**
 - A list of concepts selected for veterinary significance
 - A list of terms (language representations)
- **Primary and foreign keys between the lists**
- **Histories**
 - of concepts
 - in core or the extension
 - in the refset
 - of terms
 - in core or the extension
 - in the refset

Distributing reference sets

- **First release format (RF1) did not survive first contact with “other languages and dialects”.**
- **Veterinary-speak is a variant (dialect?) of medical speak.**
 - **RF1 Deficiencies**
 - No way to distribute delta versions (change sets)
 - No way to distribute independent history of the term list
 - **RF1 Irritations**
 - Unhelpful information included in the release

Distribution goals

➤ Things we wanted to do but could not

1. Distribute only acceptable descriptions
2. CLEARLY designate preferred terms
3. Distribute history of the refset itself
4. Distribute various levels file specifications

➤ Full distribution

➤ Snapshot

➤ Changes only

Distribution goals

➤ RF1 Work-around(s)

➤ Only acceptable descriptions

➤ Appended a list of “acceptable descriptionIDs”

➤ Designate preferred terms

➤ Appended a list of “preferred descriptionIDs”

➤ History of the refset itself

➤ No work around (and no demand)

➤ File content types

➤ No work around (and no demand)

Distribution goals

- **Things required by the RF1 schema that we wanted to avoid**
 - **Unwanted attributes**
 - isPrimitive status
 - conceptStatus
 - SNOMED ID (e.g., DD-92110)
 - CTVIII codes (e.g., x70sy)

Distribution goals

- **Properly represent SNOMED CT[®] (RF2)**
 - **Now only two description “statuses”**
 - “fully specified name”
 - “synonym”

Refset content types

➤ Full release

- Complete content of the refset
- All first version content + additions, corrections, retirements

➤ Delta release

- A change set
- Additions, corrections, retirements for a specified time period.

➤ Snapshot

- The content of the refset at a particular point in time.

Design goals

- **One schema/format for three release types**
 - Full release = every concept, every description, plus history
 - Snapshot (current state) = most recent version of every concept and every description
 - Full release includes “hidden” snapshot
- **This bullet has been edited since the original presentation. Please be advised that a snapshot is a theoretical concept that has not been executed yet. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the lab.**
- Change set = only changes since some previous state

Using the formats

- **One schema/format for three release types**
 - **Full release = analysis of historical data**
 - Content additions, modifications, retirements over the life of the subset
 - **Change set = clearly identify only changes made to some existing state of the refset**
 - Reduced processing overhead of new versions
 - **Snapshot (current state) = confirm correct existing version of your installation**

Release plan

- **SNOMED is currently releasing in RF2**
- **April 15, 2013 (AAHA and AAEP)**
 - **Public RF1**
 - **Alpha RF2**
- **October 15, 2013 (AAHA and AAEP)**
 - **Public RF1**
 - **Public RF2**
 - **Informal beta test and comment**
- **Dual release for some number of “versions”**



Release plan

➤ Present RF2 resources

- Full release file

- Schema

- Draft documentation

➤ Future RF2 resources

- Posted (static) Full release file on existing schedule

 - Documentation

- Webservice for all formats

Contact us

- <http://vtsl.vetmed.vt.edu>
- **Suggestions for “tweaks” welcome**