

Information Sheet

Study Title:

Feline dentistry in first opinion practice in the United Kingdom: veterinary surgeons' confidence, experience, and access to equipment

Principal Investigator:

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1. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess veterinarians' confidence, experience, and access to appropriate facilities when providing feline dentistry in first-opinion practice across the United Kingdom. The research aims to identify common barriers and potential areas for improvement in feline dental care delivery.

2. Study Design

This is a **cross-sectional survey-based study** involving UK veterinarians currently working in first-opinion small animal practice. Data will be collected via an **online questionnaire** distributed through professional veterinary networks, mailing lists, and social media.

No animal procedures or direct interventions are involved. No sensitive personal data will be collected.

3. Participation

Participation is voluntary. All participants must confirm consent electronically before accessing the questionnaire. No personal identifiers will be linked to survey responses.

A prize draw will be offered to incentivise participation; email addresses for this will be collected in a **separate form** to ensure anonymity.

Additionally, we will contribute £1 per participant towards cat charity to encourage participation.

4. Data Handling and Storage

Survey data (responses) will be collected and stored securely using Survey Monkey and subsequently downloaded to a password-protected computer accessible only to the principal investigator and co-investigator.

Data analysis will include descriptive and inferential statistics using Microsoft Excel and/or IBM SPSS. Qualitative comments will undergo thematic analysis.

Personal data (email addresses) for the purposes of the voluntary draw will be collected and stored securely using Google Forms and subsequently downloaded to password-protected computer accessible only to principal investigator and co-investigator. The downloaded file will be password-protected. This data will be deleted immediately after conclusion of the draw.

5. Ethical Considerations

This project does not involve animals or invasive human research and therefore falls **outside the remit of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986**. The study involves veterinary professionals only and poses minimal risk.

All participants can withdraw before submission of their survey responses.

6. Expected Outcomes

Findings will provide valuable insight into the current state of feline dentistry within UK general practice and may inform targeted training, policy, and equipment provision to improve standards of feline dental care.