

What is the ABCD?

The European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD) aims to communicate scientific developments in feline infectious diseases, and to establish a rational base for cat disease prevention and control across Europe. It aspires to define a code of practice that reflects the present state of knowledge. To this end, it issues guidelines on the prevention and management of feline infectious disease in Europe. The guidelines are based on current scientific knowledge of the diseases and available vaccines, treatment and diagnostic tools. The ABCD is composed of independent veterinarians from different parts of Europe, with an expertise in immunology, virology and/or clinical feline medicine. As a kind of “think tank on feline diseases”, the Board offers guidance to practitioners to help the establish individually-tailored, risk-based vaccination programmes to be discussed at the cat’s annual health check.



Please go to www.abcdcatsvets.org
ABCD is an independent self-governing body of experts in feline health supported by Boehringer Ingelheim (founding sponsor), Virbac and Idexx.

Resources

General guidelines

Shelter management* - Blood transfusion* - Feline injection site sarcoma* - Vaccination of immunocompromised cats* - Disinfectants - MDA and vaccination - Adverse reactions to vaccination - Vaccination and antibody titre testing - Good vaccination practices

Viral infections

Feline panleukopenia* - Feline herpesvirus infection* - Feline calicivirus infection* - Feline infectious peritonitis* - Feline leukaemia virus infection* - Feline immunodeficiency virus infection* - Rabies in cats* - Influenza virus infection - Aujeszky's disease - Borna virus infection - West Nile disease - Cowpox virus infection - Feline viral papillomatosis - SARS-CoV-2 infection - Feline morbillivirus infection

Bacterial infections

Chlamydia felis infection* - *Feline bartonellosis** - *Bordetella bronchiseptica* infection* - Leptospirosis* - Mycobacterioses* - *Pasteurella multocida* infection - Coxiellosis (Q fever) - *Yersinia pestis* infection - *Francisella tularensis* infection - *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* infection - Streptococcal infection - *Anaplasma*, *Ehrlichia* & *Rickettsia* infection - Haemoplasmosis - Feline respiratory mycoplasmosis

Fungal infections

Dermatophytosis* - Aspergillosis* - Cryptococcosis* - Sporotrichosis - Blastomycosis, histoplasmosis & coccidiomycosis - Phaeohiphomycosis & hyalohyphomycosis - *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* infection

Protozoan infections

Tritrichomoniasis - Giardiasis* - Toxoplasmosis* - Leishmaniasis* - Babesiosis* - Cytauxzoonosis - Hepatozoonosis



Helminthic infections

Lungworm disease* - Dirofilariosis

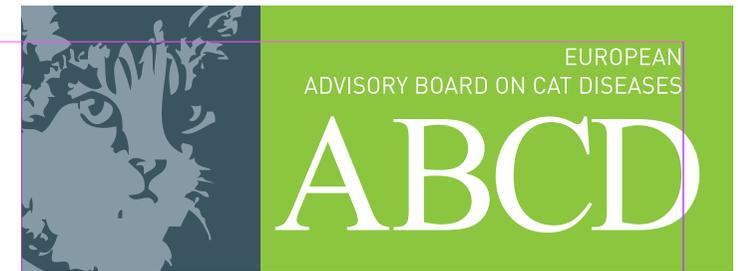
*synoptic fact sheets are available in several languages

Tools

FCV outbreaks in multi-cat settings - Panleukopenia outbreak control - FeLV diagnostic tool - Vaccine recommendations according to lifestyle - FIV diagnostic tool - FIP diagnostic tool

New guidelines, tools and fact sheets are regularly created and updated.

All resources are freely available from the ABCD website. www.abcdcatsvets.org



“With over 80 million cats now in households across Europe, there is a clear need for evidence-based guidance in prevention and management of the major feline infectious diseases, including vaccination protocols and choice of vaccines, as well as the avoidance of over-vaccination.”



Professor Marian Horzinek (†)
Founding Chairman ABCD,
Former Head, Department
of Infectious Diseases,
Division of Virology, Faculty of
Veterinary Medicine; former Director,
Institute of Veterinary Research,
Utrecht (Netherlands)



Disease prevention

Vaccination has become a victim of its own success, according to Professor Marian Horzinek (†). *“The significant benefits of vaccination are becoming difficult to see, as historically widespread diseases such as rabies are rarely encountered these days in Europe.”* This has led many pet owners to become unconcerned about their pet’s vaccination status. Currently, it is estimated that in Europe, only one third of cats are correctly vaccinated - i.e. received a full primary vaccination course and regular boosters - a level far from sufficient to allow disease eradication. In other words, the majority of cats in Europe are not vaccinated correctly.

“Furthermore, infectious diseases cause discomfort, pain, and are often fatal – they therefore constitute an important welfare issue.”

Professor Karin Möstl, co-chair, ABCD

History & sponsorship

The European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD), a panel of leading veterinary experts in immunology, vaccinology, diagnostics and/or clinical feline medicine, is a self-governing organisation. The ABCD was set up in 2005 by founding chairman Marian Horzinek (†) and Jean-Christophe Thibault of Boehringer Ingelheim (then Merial). In 2019, the ABCD became an independent organisation. It is currently supported by Boehringer Ingelheim, Virbac and Idexx.

For further information and any media queries regarding the ABCD, please contact: Karin de Lange DVM - ABCD Press officer & secretary (karin@abcdcatsvets.org)

Activities

- Publication and regular updating of over 50 **guidelines** in feline infectious diseases
- **Publication** of several guidelines in special issues of the *Journal of feline medicine and surgery* (2009, 2013, and 2015) and more recently in *Viruses* (2022)
- Production and distribution of over 30 practical **fact sheets** and **tools** in several languages
- Promotion of scientific research into feline infectious diseases, by organising the annual ABCD and Boehringer Ingelheim **Young Scientist Award**
- Organisation of **multi-centre epidemiological studies** in feline infectious diseases
- An **informative web site** containing the latest version of all resources and publications
- A regular **newsletter** with updates on ABCD activities



Andrea Spiri,
winner of the 2022 ABCD
& Boehringer Ingelheim
Young Scientist Award

Who’s who?

Guidelines and other ABCD activities are the result of a consensus reached thanks to meetings and exchanges between members of the ABCD. The diverse professional backgrounds and different geographical origins of the experts of the ABCD allow rich scientific exchanges during these meetings, providing added value for veterinarians cross Europe.

The ABCD’s mission is also to keep all guidelines at ‘state of the art’ level of knowledge and, where appropriate, produce new resources.

ABCD members



Diane Addie

Author of the *catvirus.com* website, Honorary Research Fellow, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Glasgow (UK).



Sandor Belák

Professor emeritus, Department of Virology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences & National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala (Sweden) & OIE expert for the diagnosis of viral diseases.



Corine Boucraut

Scanelis Diagnostic Laboratory Toulouse (France). Formerly Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases Toulouse Veterinary University.



Herman Egberink

Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University (Netherlands).



Tadeusz Frymus

Professor, Department of Small Animal Diseases and Clinic, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Warsaw University of Life Sciences SGGW (Poland).



Katrin Hartmann

Professor and Head, Clinic of Companion Animal Medicine, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich (Germany)



Regina Hofmann-Lehmann

Professor and Head, Department of Clinical Diagnostics and Services, University Animal Hospital at the University of Zurich (Switzerland)



Margaret Hosie – chair ABCD

Professor of Comparative Virology, MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, Glasgow (UK)



Albert Lloret

Clinical instructor, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain) & Founding member Spanish Feline Study Group & member of the ISFM academy of feline practitioners.



Hans Lutz

Former Head, Clinical Laboratory, and Full Professor emeritus, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zurich (Switzerland)



Fulvio Marsilio

Professor of infectious diseases, Division of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Università di Teramo (Italy).



Karin Möstl – co-chair ABCD

Professor and Former Head of Clinical Virology, Institute of Virology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna (Austria)



Maria Grazia Pennisi

Professor, Clinical Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Public Health, Università di Messina (Italy).



Séverine Tasker

RCVS Specialist in Feline Medicine, Chief medical officer Linnaeus (UK), Honorary Professor in Feline Medicine, University of Bristol, Editor of the BSAVA Manual of Feline Practice.



Etienne Thiry

Full professor emeritus of Veterinary Virology and Viral Diseases, Liège University (Belgium), former chairman of expert committees of Agencies for animal health and food safety (France and Belgium).



Uwe Truyen

Head, Institute for Animal Hygiene & Veterinary Public Health, University of Leipzig, (Germany) & chairman German standing veterinary vaccination committee.