

Appendix 4: Criteria for coding if the condition or complaint was a disease or clinical sign

- If it was something an owner would present the animal for, or something that would be detected on a veterinarians' clinical exam, or was a lab finding, it was classified as a clinical sign e.g. 'apathy' and 'haematuria' would be classified as 'Clinical sign'
- If a specific disease was named, it was classified as a disease e.g. 'hyperadrenocorticism' or 'Johne's disease' would be classified as 'Disease'
- If the terminology used could be a clinical sign, but also something that veterinarians would use to commonly describe something that was considered a disease, it was classified as 'Both' e.g. 'mastitis' or 'hypocalcemia' would be classified as 'Both'
- If the terminology was too vague to be considered either a clinical sign or a specific disease, or it couldn't be classified, it was classified as 'Unclassifiable' e.g. 'zoonoses' or 'production diseases' would be classified as 'Unclassifiable'