

## GP-2 Notes (3/9/08)

During our group's teleconference today, only a few issues were raised with regard to GP-2. Overall, we felt very good about the progress of the project and our understanding of it as a group. Mainly, we wanted to iron out some details and make sure that we had consistency between the two documents that we are submitting for GP-2: the schema document and the data dictionary. Here are the main points of our discussion.

1. ABUSE Entity — We decided to eliminate an attribute of the ABUSE entity called ABUSE\_OWNREP, which would have documented whether or not an owner reported the abuse. This seemed like an unlikely occurrence. Second, we decided to add a few attributes to the ABUSE entity: one to will record the ID of the staff member that found possible evidence of abuse, another to record the date that the possible abuse was first noted, and another to record the date when the abuse case was closed. This seemed good for documentation and liability purposes.
2. Zip Code vs. City and State — We discussed whether or not we could just record the zip code for the contact information in our system, rather than city, state, and zip code. A city and state can be derived from a zip code, but this would involve introducing some superfluous complexities to our system. Ultimately, we decided it was best to record city, state, and zip code.
3. VACCINATION Entity — In our data dictionary, we had two attributes—VACC\_ID and VACC\_CODE—that were redundant, so we eliminated the VACC\_CODE attribute. Also, we decided to change the format of the vaccination frequency attribute (VACCINATION\_FREQ) from years to months, since confusion would arise if a pet needed to be vaccinated, say 3 times a year. Integers seemed preferable to decimals in this situation.
4. DIAGNOSIS Entity — We decided to record the STAFF\_ID and the date of diagnosis to the DIAGNOSIS entity. A diagnosis may not necessarily be given at the same date as the visit. For example, if lab results come in a few days after the pet's visit, a new diagnosis may be recorded. Therefore, a user of the system would want to differentiate between diagnoses given at the time of the visit and new or updated diagnoses given as a result of new information not know at the time of the pet's visit.
5. APPOINTMENT Entity — We clarified some group confusion on the APPT\_SLOT attribute. There are four appointment slots per hour according to our business rules, so the range of values for this attribute is 1-4.
6. We had a brief discussion on naming conventions and minimizing the name length of some attributes.
7. We had a discussion about the different field formats CHAR, VCHAR, NUMBER, and DATE. Specifically, we talked about what format should be used for specific attributes, the general theory of the different formats, and total characters.