



Responsible Use of Antimicrobials: World Veterinary Association Perspective

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Introduction

Antimicrobial resistance is a public health and animal health concern because of loss of effectiveness of antimicrobials

In addition, the animal health concern includes possible loss of availability of effective antimicrobials

- Example – USA removal of enrofloxacin, a fluoroquinolone, to treat colibacillosis in poultry



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Risk of resistance development and the impact of resistance is variable depending on factors such as:

- Differences among different genus and species of bacteria
- Likelihood of different antimicrobials to cause the development of resistance
- Variable importance of certain antimicrobial classes for humans and animals
- Differences in the way antimicrobials are used
- Differences in the frequency of use
- Differences in the length of use
- Differences in the total quantities used



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World Veterinary Association Actions

- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Ad Hoc Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance
 - Dr. Herbert Schneider, WVA President
 - List of Important Antimicrobials for Veterinary Medicine
- Codex Alimentarius Commission Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance
 - Dr. Leon Russell, WVA Past President and Dr. Tjeerd Jorna, WVA President
 - Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance
- WVA policies on antimicrobial resistance



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WVA Position on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials Premises or Basis of the Responsible Use Principles

- Good animal health and welfare starts with good care and management
- Prevention, control and treatment of animal diseases are necessary parts of successful animal husbandry
- The availability of a variety of antimicrobials for animals is essential to assure animal health and welfare
- There is a risk that the use of antimicrobials in animals can result in resistance
- The availability and use of antimicrobials in animals must be balanced to achieve animal health and public health



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WVA Position on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials Premises or Basis of the Responsible Use Principles

- Veterinarians must consider both human and animal health when considering use of antimicrobials
- Decisions on how to manage the risk of antimicrobial resistance must be based on risk analysis
 - Risk assessment, risk communication, and risk management
- The WVA recognizes that different countries and regions have chosen different risk management actions
- Risk analysis cannot be generalized to evaluate broad categories
- Responsible use by veterinarians plays an important role in protecting public health.



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WVA Responsible Use Principles

1. In case of animal disease, the animals should be examined by a veterinarian, who makes a diagnosis, and recommends and plans an effective treatment programme.
2. Antimicrobials used for therapy are health management tools that are licensed to be used for the purposes of:
 - a. Disease treatment
 - b. Disease control
 - c. Disease prevention
3. Codes of good veterinary practice, quality assurance programmes, herd health control and surveillance programs, and education programmes should promote the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.



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WVA Responsible Use Principles

4. Antimicrobials should be used only with veterinary involvement.
5. The availability of effective antimicrobials should be based on risk analysis that considers the OIE List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance.
6. Therapeutic antimicrobials may be used when it is known or suspected that an infectious agent is present which will be susceptible to therapy.
7. When antimicrobials need to be used for therapy, bacteriological diagnosis with antimicrobial sensitivity testing should, whenever possible, be part of the informed professional clinical judgment.



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WVA Responsible Use Principles

8. Label instructions should be carefully followed and due attention paid to species and disease indications and contra-indications, dosage regimen, withdrawal periods, storage instructions, and expiration dates for products.
9. Antimicrobials used for therapy should be used for as long as needed, over as short a dosage period as possible, and at the appropriate dosage regimen.
10. Records should be kept of all antimicrobial administrations.



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WVA Responsible Use Principles

11. Coordinated susceptibility monitoring and surveillance should be conducted and the results should be provided to the prescriber/supervising veterinarian and other relevant parties.
12. Efficacious, scientifically proven alternatives to antimicrobials are needed as an important part of good husbandry practices.



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Conclusions

- Availability of effective antimicrobials for veterinary medicine is a critical component of a safe food supply and optimal animal health and welfare
- Safeguarding animal health is of paramount importance to the economic welfare, public health, and food supply of nations and states.
- Responsible use of antimicrobials by veterinarians is in the best interests of both animal health and public health.
- Use of the WVA Principles for Responsible Use will:
 - Decrease selective pressures
 - Help retain the effectiveness and availability of veterinary antimicrobials



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Thank you for your attention.