

# RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN VETERINARY PRACTICE: THE 8-POINT PLAN

1

Work with clients to avoid need for antimicrobials

- Integrated disease control programmes
- Animal Health and Welfare Planning
- Isolate infected animals wherever possible

2

Avoid inappropriate use

- For example, for uncomplicated viral infections
- Restrict use to ill or at-risk animals
- Advise clients on correct administration of products and completion of course
- Avoid underdosing

3

Choose the right drug for the right bug

- Identify likely target organisms and predict their susceptibility
- Create practice-based protocols for common infections based on clinical judgement and up to date knowledge
- Know how antimicrobials work and their pharmacodynamic properties
- Use antimicrobials with a spectrum as narrow as possible

4

Monitor antimicrobial sensitivity

- While clinical diagnosis is often the initial basis for treatment, microbiological sensitivity must be determined whenever possible so that a change of treatment can be implemented if necessary

5

Minimise prophylactic use

- Use only when animals are at risk and evidence that usage reduces morbidity and/or mortality
- Regularly assess prophylactic use and develop written protocols for when prophylactic medication considered appropriate
- Monitor antimicrobial sensitivity trends

6

Minimise use perioperatively

- Use only when necessary and supported by strict aseptic techniques alongside written practice guidelines

7

Record and justify deviations from protocols

- Be able to justify your choice of antimicrobial and dose
- Keep accurate records of treatment and outcome to help evaluate therapeutic regimens

8

Report suspected treatment failure to the VMD

- This may be the first indication of resistance
- Report through the Suspected Adverse Reaction Surveillance Scheme (SARSS)

**SPECIAL NOTE**

**Fluoroquinolones and third-/fourth-generation cephalosporins:**

- Reserve these antimicrobials for clinical conditions that respond poorly to other classes of antimicrobials and where antibiotic sensitivity has been carried out.
- Do not administer systemically to groups or flocks of animals except in very specific situations and special attention should be given to the risk of antimicrobial resistance as part of the benefit/risk assessment.
- Avoid off label use whenever possible

**ANTIMICROBIALS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS AND ZONOTIC DISEASES IN BOTH ANIMALS AND HUMANS**

**EVERY USE INCREASES THE RISK OF DEVELOPMENT OF MICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

**RESPONSIBLE USE OPTIMISES THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS WHILE MINIMISING RESISTANCE DEVELOPMENT**

**RESPONSIBLE USE — AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS NECESSARY**

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