

## Antimicrobial resistance: the British Veterinary Association's principles for setting sector-specific targets for the reduction of antibacterial use.

---

BVA recognises antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as an issue of critical importance to society as a whole and is committed to providing leadership on this issue. Our overall aim is responsible prescribing and responsible use across the profession, industry, and in the wider context of One Health. A reduction in the use of antibacterials in animals under our care can only be achieved through improvements to animal health and welfare via disease prevention strategies, including improved animal husbandry and management.

To support the work of the RUMA Targets Taskforce in setting sector-specific targets for reducing antibacterial use in livestock, BVA has developed the following principles:

1. Sector specific targets must be evidence-based wherever possible. Where evidence is lacking, they should be based on previous experience from the same sector or other sectors where appropriate.
2. Targets must never inhibit a veterinary surgeon's ability to treat or control infectious disease.
3. Targets should not compromise animal health & welfare.
4. There may be instances where euthanasia is a more appropriate treatment option to the use of antibacterials, taking into account the good of the individual animal, the herd/flock, and the wider context.
5. Antimicrobial resistance impacts upon the entire veterinary profession and therefore targets should be developed for all the veterinary sectors, including companion animal, exotics, and equine.
6. Targets should use more than one appropriate metric wherever possible to reduce the risk of incentivising irresponsible use.