

MESSAGE FROM
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ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF
WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2017
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

It is that time of year again, that veterinarians around the globe join in observing **World Veterinary Day** on April 29, 2017. This year's theme, **“ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE - FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION”**



focuses on an emerging global issue of global public health significance. Antimicrobial Resistance is occurring worldwide and threatens the effective treatment and control of infections caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi, often resulting in prolonged illness and even death. The ability of microorganisms to develop resistance to antimicrobial preparations is of serious concern to human and animal health professionals and paraprofessionals. Antimicrobial Resistance happens when microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites, undergo certain transformation when they are exposed to antimicrobial drugs, for example antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals and

anthelmintics. As a result of this, the drugs become ineffective and infections persist over an extended period,

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) have been collaborating in a 'One Health' approach in an effort to foster best practices geared towards minimizing the emergence and dissemination of resistant microorganisms. In this regard, a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance was adopted by Member States of the WHO at the 58th World Health Assembly, supported by the governing bodies of FAO and OIE. One of the major goals of the Global Action Plan is to ensure, continuity in the successful treatment of infectious diseases with effective drugs used in a prudent and responsible manner and are accessible.

Veterinary Services, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals all have a key part to play in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, through their role in monitoring the use of antimicrobials and giving professional advice to livestock farmers and pet owners and collaborating with the human health sector.

I want to recognize and commend the hard work of our veterinarians in private practice, academia and the Veterinary Services Division and also our veterinary paramedics, for their continued support towards the safeguard of animal health, human health and public health in general.