



One Health approach needed to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance

The availability and use of antimicrobials for animals is essential to ensure good animal health and welfare. However, there is a risk that, as with their use in humans, the inappropriate use of antimicrobials in animals may contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which can negatively affect human and animal health. Veterinarians are responsible for safeguarding animal and human health and this is an issue of global concern.

Decisions on how best to manage the development of AMR should be based on a risk: benefit analysis (including risk assessment, risk communication, and risk management). Countries and regions have adopted different risk management strategies based on differential weighting of risks to benefits on public health outcomes.

Some countries and regions have banned outright the use of antimicrobials for animal growth promotion and feed efficiency, while other countries have implemented greater veterinary oversight of medically important antimicrobials used by both humans and animals. The outcomes of risk management decisions need to be measurable and need to be periodically reviewed to determine if the outcome is favourably affected by the implemented action.

Risk analysis should not be generalised to evaluate broad categories such as the reason for use, including treatment, prevention or control of disease, or use for



WVA President Dr. Renee Carlson

growth promotion/feed efficiency. Instead, the particulars of these agents, such as class of antimicrobial, propensity to result in resistance, frequency of use, method of administration, and importance for animal and human welfare, need to be considered.

Because of the interrelationships of antimicrobial resistance between human, animal and environmental sectors a multidisciplinary 'One Health' approach; with medical, veterinary, and environmental health professionals working together; is crucial in tackling the issue of AMR.

Taken from the World Veterinary Association Document: Policy on the responsible use of Antimicrobials. Reproduced with permission.

The full Policy may be viewed at:

http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_position_on_the_use_of_am.pdf

www.worldvet.org