



# THE GLOBAL BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ANTIMICROBIAL USE

The word “antimicrobials” covers all antimicrobial products administered orally and parenterally to animals, i.e. antibiotics (produced by fermentation of live micro-organisms) but also chemically –synthesized compounds with antibiotic activity such as sulphonamides and quinolones; it does not include disinfectants and sanitizers. The guidance in this document applies to antibacterials, anti-virals and anti-protozoals.

- Sick or infected animals should be under the care of a veterinarian, who is responsible for assessing animal health, making a diagnosis, and recommending an effective care program.
- Therapeutic antimicrobials are licensed or registered for the purposes of disease treatment, control, and prevention
- Codes of good veterinary practice, quality assurance programs, herd health control and surveillance programs, and education programs should promote the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.
- Antimicrobials that are important in human medicine should only be used in animals under veterinary care with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
- The availability of antimicrobials should be based on risk:benefit analysis that considers the importance of the antimicrobial to both veterinary and human medicine.

- Whenever possible, microbiologic diagnosis, including culture and antibacterial sensitivity testing, should be used to make treatment decisions.
- Therapeutic antimicrobials should be used for as long as needed but for the shortest duration necessary, and at the appropriate dosage.
- Records should be kept when antimicrobials are administered.
- Regional updates of bacterial susceptibility and resistance in human and animal populations should be monitored and made available to practising veterinarians and public health professionals.
- Effective alternatives to antimicrobials are needed as an important part of good husbandry practices.

*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](http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_position_on_the_use_of_am.pdf)*