



POSITION STATEMENT

THE CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH INDUSTRY SUPPORTS THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS

June 12, 2017

The Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and its members are committed to working with Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the veterinary community, farmers, pet owners and consumers to promote the safe and responsible use of antimicrobials.

Professional expertise and the availability of effective alternatives are key elements in the responsible use of antimicrobials. Their responsible use by veterinary and human medicine professionals and animal owners to protect the health and welfare of animals and humans can be promoted through the understanding that:

- The regular review of antimicrobial stewardship initiatives with a view to continuous improvement contributes to the preservation of the effectiveness of antimicrobials in the treatment of animals and humans;
- The veterinary-client-patient relationship is paramount given the importance of using antimicrobials in compliance with best practice recommendations; and
- The adoption of new practices and the introduction of new management systems, as well as the development of a regulatory pathway for alternatives, are likely to reduce the risk of disease and bacterial infections and reduce the need for antimicrobials.

CAHI fully supports recent and upcoming changes made by Health Canada to how antimicrobials can be used for animal health. More information about these initiatives can be found on our website at www.cahi-icsa.ca.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

An antimicrobial is a health product that kills microorganisms or stops their growth. Antibiotics, antifungals, biostatics, antiseptics and disinfectants are all subtypes of antimicrobials. Antimicrobial resistance is when one of these types of agents, usually a human or veterinary drug, stops working because the microorganism it is supposed to kill has somehow developed the ability to continue to survive and replicate.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global One Health issue, particularly with respect to antibiotics. When bacteria survive and continue to replicate and the infection does not go away, antimicrobial resistance

can be a cause. Treatment of disease may require the use of a different, more powerful antimicrobial to target these resistant bacteria. The problem is there are only a limited number of antimicrobials.

CAHI's members are dedicated to providing safe and effective animal health products as tools to promote animal health and welfare. Before any animal health product is offered for sale, it is reviewed by the Canadian government for effectiveness and undergoes a thorough risk assessment from an animal and human health, food safety and environmental standpoint.

Some of CAHI's Actions Related to Antimicrobial Resistance:

- Participates in the ongoing development and use of the veterinary [Prudent Use Guidelines](#) for livestock by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.
- Developed a voluntary product logo to more easily identify medically important antimicrobials used in veterinary medicine.
- Promotes the importance of the [Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship](#) to assess an animal's health needs, to accurately diagnose diseases and to treat with the appropriate animal health product at the right dose for the correct duration.
- Actively participates in provincial, national and international antimicrobial resistance discussions and strategic actions that promote the One Health concept.
- Advocates for the use of veterinary drugs licensed for use in Canada to assure the quality, safety and equivalency of purchased products.

**CONTAINS
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