

WORLD ANIMAL DAY*

A time to reflect on the positive contribution animals make to our wellbeing and communities

(*World Animal Day: Wednesday, 4 October 2017)

World Animal Day* is an opportunity to reflect on the positive contribution animals make to our wellbeing and our communities, says Animal Medicines Australia (AMA).

Our pets give us companionship and loyalty. Research consistently shows significant health and social benefits are associated with pet ownership. Service animals, such as guide dogs and other assistance animals, help people maintain their independence. Horses and dogs have important roles in helping police, customs and quarantine services keep us safe. Livestock provide us with food and fibre, including wool to keep us warm, and food such as dairy, meat and eggs.

“Medicines are essential to protect the health of animals, both on the farm and in our homes. Preventing illness is always preferable, but when disease strikes, medicines are often the only tool that can save lives and stop painful suffering,” AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley said.

“Healthy animals live longer, are more productive and protect us from zoonotic diseases such as Hendra virus, brucellosis and bird flu.

“Healthy pets can continue to bring us benefits that includes helping us stay connected to our community, lowering our blood pressure, and helping strengthen our immune system.

“Healthy livestock is more productive, reducing stock losses and allowing farmers to efficiently produce food and fibre with less impact on the environment through reduced requirements for water, feed and land,” Mr Stapley said.

AMA looks forward to continuing to support animal health by providing high quality products, vaccines, medications and services.

Pet owners can assist by:

- Always using Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) registered medicines;
- Reading and complying with all label instructions, and consulting with your veterinarian if unsure; and
- Responsibly storing, handling, using and disposing of waste medicines.

For further information, contact:

Ben Stapley +61 436 191 011

Executive Director – Animal Medicines Australia

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[Animal Medicines Australia](#) is the peak body that represents the leaders of the animal health industry in Australia. Our member companies are responsible for a range of veterinary medicine products that prevent, control and cure disease across the companion animal and livestock sectors.