

## **Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) meeting the challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** **Antibiotics Awareness Week Monday 13 to Sunday 19 November**

During Antibiotics Awareness Week, Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) reminds us that animals, humans and the environment all benefit from the responsible, judicious and sustainable use of antibiotics.

Antibiotics are key to treating infections in humans and animals – there are no alternatives to treating life-threatening bacterial infections. The world has recognised that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a challenge that costs lives. Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) and our members are working to ensure that veterinary antibiotics retain their value as a therapeutic tool to support animal health and welfare, and ensure safe and sustainable food production.

The treatment of bacterial infections with the right antibiotics, using the correct dose and through the appropriate pathway, improves quality of life, reduces health costs, reduces hospitalisations and saves lives for both animals and humans

“AMA and its members are working to address the challenges posed by AMR,” AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley said.

AMA’s actions and stewardship activities are consistent with the Australian [National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015-2019](#) and include:

- Developing antibiotic prescribing guidelines for cattle, pigs, horses, sheep and chickens in partnership with the Australian Veterinary Association which will complement existing prescribing guidelines for our cats and dogs
- Partnering with the global organisation [HealthforAnimals](#) to develop the “[Animal Health Sector Commitments and Actions on Antibiotic Use](#)”
- Expanding industry information and communication materials to ensure that users have the information they need to use antibiotic products responsibly and judiciously.

More work still needs to be done. Australia needs a comprehensive antimicrobial resistance surveillance system that will complement existing systems in place for humans. AMA is calling for all stakeholders, including governments, veterinarians, livestock industries and others to cooperate to develop a comprehensive AMR surveillance scheme for animals in Australia

“We also encourage pet owners and others to follow label directions and the directions of their veterinarian when using antibiotic products for their animals’ health.

“AMA along with our member organisations are walking the talk, not just talking the talk,” Mr Stapley said.

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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.

### **AMA members and Australian signatories to the *Animal Health Sector Commitments and Actions on Antibiotic Use*:**

Bayer Animal Health  
Jurox  
Vetquinol

Boehringer Ingelheim  
MSD  
Virbac

Elanco  
Phibro  
Zoetis