

## **GENUINE MEDICINES HELP KEEP OUR ANIMALS HEALTHY** **Fake animal medicines market worth \$2 billion a year globally**

The market for illegal veterinary medicines is worth \$2 billion a year globally, says a new report into '[Illegal Veterinary Medicines](#)' from HealthforAnimals.

Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) said illegal veterinary medicines include counterfeit, falsified, unregistered products and unapproved parallel imports. These illegal products may increase the risks to animal health by not working as expected, may compromise food safety, increase the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and lower agricultural productivity.

“Ensuring animal medicines are genuine and administered according to the label or veterinary instructions are important for them to be effective and help keep our animals healthy,” said AMA Executive Director Ben Stapley.

The monetary cost and the loss of consumer trust that comes with fake medicines entering the market are part of findings in a recent report into '[Illegal Veterinary Medicines](#)' by AMA's international partner organisation HealthforAnimals.

Just last year, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in a joint operation with the Australian Border Force and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) seized dozens of [counterfeit and illicit medicines](#) destined for Australian consumers, including pet owners and farmers.

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said it was a reminder to pet owners and farmers about the dangers of obtaining medicines from unknown or unapproved sources.

“None of the medicines that were confiscated had been through Australia's robust regulatory scheme,” Mr Stapley said. “That the market has been able to get to this size and to know it is growing is concerning.”

Some action the community, including pet owners and farmers, can take to ensure their animal medicines are genuine is:

- Look for the APVMA approval number on the label
- Ensure the container has a tamper evident seal
- Ensure the medicine is prescribed by a qualified veterinarian
- If your vet has given you a script to fill elsewhere, use only reputable online pharmacies
- Ensure over the counter products, such as flea collars and worm treatments, are bought from reputable retailers

“Our pets and livestock rely on us to meet their health and welfare needs,” Mr Stapley said. “All animal owners have a responsibility to make sure the medicines we give them are genuine and approved products.”

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