



Antibiotics are key to treating infections in humans and animals - there are no alternatives to treating life-threatening bacterial infections. The world has recognized that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in humans is a challenge that costs lives. Our vision is a world where veterinary antibiotics are used responsibly to protect and treat animals, and where they maintain their value as a therapeutic tool. An equally important challenge is maintaining and increasing food safety and security. To address these interconnected challenges, companies and organizations commit to five principles and practical actions, and will proactively encourage others to embrace them.



Principle 1: Protect animal health and welfare in a unified One Health approach.

Actions: We will meet the ethical requirement of protecting animals by providing animal health products of the same high quality as products developed for people. In addressing antimicrobial resistance, we will take a One Health approach to cooperation, equally considering human and animal health, and environmental impact. To address AMR, we will strengthen partnerships between animal health companies, farmers, veterinarians, retailers, authorities and associations. We will reach out to seek new solutions and ideas and are open to explore joint actions with others.



Principle 2: Use antibiotics judiciously and responsibly.

Actions: We promote the use of antibiotics for therapeutic reasons. Under the adage "as little as possible, as much as necessary", we will continue to promote responsible/judicious use by providing clear labels and good technical advice. We recommend antibiotics be used under veterinary supervision where available. In countries that lack veterinary capabilities, imposing this requirement before addressing the shortage of veterinarians condemns animals to unnecessary suffering. We will increase our efforts to encourage investment in better access to veterinary care. We actively contribute to the promotion of responsible use principles and practices in national responsible use coalitions.



Principle 3: Promote disease prevention and increased access to products and expertise.

Actions: We promote animal husbandry techniques that contribute to disease prevention by sharing our knowledge with producers. We commit to continuing to improve availability of vaccination. We will seek maximum access and affordability of legitimate products to counter the use of illegal, low quality and fake products in some markets, and contribute to education and training on the dangers of their use. We will advocate for programs to increase the number of veterinarians in developing countries.



Principle 4: Invest in development of products for prevention and treatment.

Actions: We will invest in new products that reduce reliance on antibiotics. As animal health companies we will invest between 6%-9% of our annual turnover in the development of new products, diagnostics, genetics and life-cycle management of existing products. Global annual animal health sector revenues are estimated at US\$30 billion. Assuming companies not part of HealthforAnimals also invest a similar percentage, this equates to an annual investment of US\$1.8 - 2.7 billion for prevention and treatment options for food and companion animals. Investment at these levels for new solutions is commercially viable only if rising cost factors like regulatory cost are reduced. We encourage governments to: increase incentives for new technological advances, facilitate regulatory pathways for all types of products, encourage increased uptake of vaccination, and support availability and access to veterinarians.



Principle 5: Increase knowledge, transparency and communications.

Actions: We support science and evidence-based solutions. Many animal health companies undertake scientific research into AMR pathways, and we support other groups in their research. We will continue to contribute to the collection of national and international antibiotic use data. We will encourage producers and retailers to be transparent about animal health and welfare impacts resulting from antibiotic-free production practices. We will increase our communications efforts about responsible use, vaccination and alternatives and continue to provide data and advice to our customers on managing diseases.

This Commitment is managed by HealthforAnimals, the global animal medicines association, and our Members. Other organizations or companies are encouraged to join us in affirming these principles.

HealthforAnimals Member Companies:



HealthforAnimals Member Associations:



Argentina:	Caprove
Australia:	Animal Medicines Australia
Belgium:	PHARMA.BE
Brazil:	Sindicato Nacional da Industria de Produtos Para Saude Animal (SINDAN)
Canada:	Canadian Animal Health Institute
Chile:	Asociacion Gremial de Laboratorios de productos Veterinarios
Denmark:	Danish Association for the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Industry
France:	Syndicat de L'industrie Du Médicaments et Reactif Veterinaires (SIMV)
Germany:	Bundesverband Für Tiergesundheit (BfT)
Europe:	IFAH-Europe
India:	Indian Federation of Animal Health Companies (INFAH)
Indonesia:	Indonesian Veterinary Drugs Association
Ireland:	Animal and Plant Health Association (APHA)
Italy:	Italian Animal Health Association (AISA)
Japan:	Japan Veterinary Products Association (JVPA)
Korea:	Korean Animal Health Products Association (KAHPA)
Mexico:	Industria Farmaceutica Veterinaria, Canifarma
Netherlands:	Fabrikanten en Importeurs van Diergeneesmiddelen (FIDIN)
New Zealand:	Association for Animal Health and Crop Protection (AGCARM)
Paraguay:	Cámara de Especialidades Veterinarias del Paraguay
Portugal:	Apifarma
South Africa:	South African Animal Health Association
Asia:	Asian Animal Health Association
Spain:	Veterindustria
Sweden:	Läkemedelsindustriföreningen (LIF)
Switzerland:	Scienceindustries
Thailand:	Thai Animal Health Products Association
United Kingdom:	National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)
United States:	Animal Health Institute (AHI)

Other Companies and Organizations:

Dopharma
Orion
IDT BIOLOGIKA
Colorado Serum Company
Kyoritsu Seiyak
Nippon Zenyaku Kogyo (Zenoaq)
Pharmaxim
Biogenesis
Ourofino
Laboratorio Bio-Vet
Coveli
LABORATÓRIO Produtos Vet
Des -Vet Produtos Vet
Vetnil
UZINAS QUÍMICAS BRASILEIRAS

Support from the Veterinary Community:



The World Veterinary Association (WVA) represents around 500,000 veterinarians around the world. WVA commends HealthforAnimals for the development and launch of the Global Animal Health Sector Antibiotic Commitment. WVA supports the initiatives and actions set out in the Commitment; they are in line with the WVA position on responsible use of medicines. WVA wishes HealthforAnimals much success in its endeavors to decrease the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Veterinarians play a primary role in assessing animal health, making a diagnosis, and recommending effective care programs including the use of antimicrobials which must be under veterinary care with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

The WVA position highlights the global basic principles of antimicrobial use such as:

- Therapeutic antimicrobials are licensed or registered for the purposes of disease treatment, control, and prevention.
- The availability of antimicrobials should be based on risk/benefit analysis that considers the importance of the antimicrobial to both veterinary and human medicine.
- 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.
- Therapeutic antimicrobials should be used for as long as needed but for the shortest duration necessary, and at the appropriate dosage.



Based on WSAVA's active involvement in One Health and the recognition that AMR is very much a One Health issue within which companion animal practice shares responsibility for proper antimicrobial stewardship, the WSAVA endorses the HealthforAnimals antibiotic commitment, and looks forward to working collaboratively to realize its goals.