

Merck Animal Health supports the responsible use of antibiotics to treat and improve the health of animals.

Antibiotics are essential, life-saving veterinary therapeutic tools for the treatment of bacterial infections in companion and food-producing animals. Their use in veterinary medicine also benefits humans by reducing the spread of disease between animals and humans; and helping facilitate a safe, efficient and sustainable food supply.

Merck Animal Health encourages the proactive vaccination of animals to further prevent the spread of disease and reliance on antibiotics.

Merck Animal Health recognizes the critical importance of sound antibiotic stewardship and supports appropriate use by:

- Supporting the adherence to guidelines on the prudent use of antibiotics developed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and adopted jointly by the American Veterinary Medical Association, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. See the [joint statement](#).
- Supporting the animal health industry's "Antibiotics Commitment" established by the leaders of global animal health companies. See the commitment [here](#).

Providing veterinarians, commercial production operations, farmers, ranchers and feed companies with guidelines on resistance management, appropriate dosage, and length of usage in accordance with labeled indications to support the sustainable use of antibiotics.

- Conducting research to develop alternative approaches to the use of antibiotics in animals where possible. Despite significant research and development efforts, there are still several diseases with no alternative treatments to antibiotics available.
- Working with regulatory agencies to establish withdrawal periods and submitting data related to resistance development as part of the approval process for antibiotics used in food-producing animals.

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