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# **Copa-Cogeca's views on Critically Important Antibiotics**

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# Our main goal

## 1. Responsible and transparent use of antimicrobials

- Continue promoting good husbandry systems, biosecurity, feed hygiene, veterinary prescription
- Monitoring programmes on antimicrobials use/AMR
- Guarantee future treatments of bacterial infections in animals and humans

## 2. Improve availability of new antimicrobials

- Access to smart, effective and also alternative tools to cure our animals, including new diagnostic tools



# Critically important antibiotics

1. Use of critically important antibiotics is low in most countries (3 and 4 generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones) (source: ESVAC 2011)
2. Science based decision making is key: Copa-Cogeca welcomes EC's approach (EMA's involvement)
3. A common EU approach is needed
4. Avoid quick decisions based on political pressure (e.g. target on use reduction)
5. Risk mitigations measures are part of the solution

# Quinolones

1. Quinolone-resistant Salmonella and Campylobacter constitute a clear human health problem.
2. Epidemiological studies have shown, and biological reasoning indicates, a risk of treatment failure for quinolone-resistant Salmonella, leading to increased mortality in infected humans

# Third and fourth generation cephalosporins

1. The evidence is slightly weaker. The evidence is only circumstantial.
2. This is not clear what role Extended Spectrum  $\beta$ -Lactamases (ESBLs) from animals and meat play in human health.
3. In some countries the same ESBL genotypes have been shown to occur in humans and in meat or animals
4. In other countries there are big differences in genotype distribution.
5. Biologically, cephalosporin resistance in Salmonella is a problem, since Salmonella infections in children can be treated with cephalosporins. Fluoroquinolones are not recommended as a first drug of choice in children

# Macrolides

1. A picture more complicated
2. Macrolides are the drug of choice for Campylobacter
3. It could be argued that macrolides are critically important in poultry production, since poultry is a significant source of human campylobacteriosis, whereas pigs and pork are probably less significant and may not be significant at all.
4. It could therefore be argued that they are critically important when used in poultry, but not when used in pigs.

# CIAs – which way forward ? (I)

1. Cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones should be excluded as a first drug of choice for clinical diseases both in individual animals and groups of animals  
  
.... unless clinical history or laboratory analysis indicates that they are needed.
2. Should the standard treatment fail where cephalosporins or fluoroquinolones are used as alternatives, bacteriological examinations should be performed to find alternative solutions.

## CIAs – which way forward ? (II)

1. Specific antibiograms have to be considered during the use of third and fourth generation cephalosporins as well as fluoroquinolones on flocks or groups of animals
2. The antibiograms should confirm that there are no other alternatives and that these antimicrobials are the only way to treat and eradicate the disease.

# CIAs – which way forward ? (III)

1. Copa-Cogeca calls upon the European Commission to ensure a broad and effective diagnostic system at Member State level to ensure the timely delivery of results
  - Time is different across MSs (e.g. from 4 days to even 4 weeks)
2. On farm cheap and effective diagnostic tools are desperately needed
3. Move forward from problem description to problem solving (e.g. HORIZON 2020)

## CIAs – which way forward ? (IV)

1. Guidelines and recommendations suited for the particular disease and resistance situation in the country/production is essential for optimal choice of treatment
2. Responsible Use Guidance document - EPRUMA (European Platform for Responsible Use of veterinary Medicines), RUMA (UK), Vet+i (ES), ....
3. Knowledge transfer and education – veterinarians are responsible in taking the final decision
4. Veterinarians and farmers organisations have to continue to promote proper farm health management

# Recent publication



## Veterinarians and farmers care for animals and people

**“Responsible use of antibiotics in food-producing animals – How can this be ensured?”**

Antibiotic resistance in animals – much like in their human counterparts – is becoming a greater challenge every day. Antibiotic resistance occurs when certain bacteria are able to “resist” and survive after they have been exposed to a specific antibiotic that would normally be expected to kill them or inhibit their growth.

### ► Antibiotics are not always the answer

Antibiotics are used in animals for the same reason as for people: they are vital to treat and control diseases. Protecting the health of animals helps to protect human health. But the risk that the organism causing the disease will develop resistance to them increases every time they are used. To make sure that the limited antibiotics available on the market stay effective now and in the future, they must be used with caution and only on veterinary prescription. Not every infectious disease requires antibiotic treatment (e.g. viral infections).

### ► Prevention is better than cure

One of the best things to do to prevent use of antibiotics is to ensure that animals are kept healthy, by guaranteeing good hygiene, proper housing and ventilation, feed with a high nutritional value, and, where available, use of vaccines as part of a good prevention and control strategy. Mixing animals with different health statuses should be avoided, but if necessary particular care should be taken when doing so. Remember always that “stress” is a killer. Antibiotics should never replace good husbandry, hygiene and management practices.

### ► Diagnostic tests might be needed

In order for your veterinarian to know whether treatment with antibiotics is really necessary and, if so, which antibiotic will work best, a laboratory test is often advisable and in some cases even essential (e.g. use of critically important antibiotics). Your veterinarian will then be able to prescribe the right antibiotic to fight the bacteria effectively. Older types of antibiotics, such as penicillins, can be as effective as the more modern drugs.

### ► New and critically important antibiotics must be strictly controlled

Farmer and veterinarians have to work together to prevent the

### ► Do not medicate your animal yourself

Do not use antibiotics for diseases other than those they are prescribed for or after they have passed their use-by-date. They can be inappropriate for the current condition, out of date, contraindicated or contaminated. Only veterinarians can prescribe antibiotics for animals, following an examination and clinical diagnosis. Never source antibiotics outside the legal channels.

### ► Follow the dosage and instructions

Make sure that your animals get all the recommended doses of an antibiotic as prescribed by your veterinarian, even if they get better. Not only will this help to clear up the current infection, but it will also help to keep the bacteria from discovering a new way of becoming resistant to the antibiotic. Always respect the withdrawal time in order to ensure that no residues remain before the meat or milk enters the food chain.

### ► Keep your treatments records in order

Improving antibiotic use requires the transparency and responsibility of all relevant operators, including farmers and veterinarians. Both farmers and veterinarians play an important role in keeping accurate records of treatments administered, and use these records for further assessments and possible adjustments to future treatments.

### ► Open dialogue between veterinarians and farmers (Farm Health Management Programme)

Safe food is produced by healthy animals. Health and welfare are greatly influenced by the way animals are kept and raised. At the level of primary production, the farmer has a key responsibility to guarantee that animals satisfy the requirements of animal health and welfare provisions. An open dialogue between farmers and veterinarians is vital to ensure healthy and productive animals. To support the farmer

*Available on our website in  
IT, EN, DE, PL, ES, FR, RO,*



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## **Defending and developing the European Model of Agriculture**