



Responsible Use of medicines in animals: what does this mean?



- **Veterinary medicines, including antibiotics, need to be used responsibly to maintain their efficacy. All animal health stakeholders are committed to Responsible Use**
- **Responsible Use as promoted by EPRUMA is based on a holistic approach of minimising disease which encompasses enhancing knowledge on disease prevention, animal health, animal welfare and husbandry practices**
- **Antibiotics should be used “As little as possible, as much as necessary”**

Like people, animals can get sick - independently of all precautions taken - and then require medicines. Antibiotics are vital to treat and control bacteria causing disease in people or animals. Veterinary medicines, such as antibiotics and antiparasitics, need to be used responsibly to maintain their efficacy. Responsible Use supports animal health and welfare, contributes to the production of quality food from healthy animals as well as public health, whilst minimising the impact on the environment.

Responsible Use: a holistic view

Responsible Use is based on a holistic approach of minimising disease through a wide choice of tools such as biosecurity¹, good housing and ventilation, good hygiene, appropriate nutrition and robust animals, regular monitoring of animal health and welfare, animal health planning, use of diagnostics, vaccination and using and maintaining the pharmacovigilance system when necessary, as well as the use of veterinary medicines, as required by law. (See graphic overleaf)

EPRUMA promotes Responsible Use in the EU

EPRUMA, the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, is a multi-stakeholder platform linking best practice with animal health and public health. Established in 2005, it works to promote the Responsible Use of medicines² in animals in the EU in order to maintain efficacy and both prevent and minimise undesirable effects.

EPRUMA's objectives are:

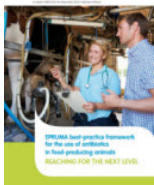
- **Promoting animal health and welfare** as well as human health through the Responsible Use of veterinary medicines
- **Developing best-practice frameworks** concerning the use of veterinary medicines. EPRUMA works on broad principles at EU level, which in turn can be tailored nationally in EU member states.
- **Communicating with and engaging all parties concerned** with the Responsible Use of veterinary medicines.

¹ A set of preventative measures aiming to prevent pathogens entering a herd (any group of animals) and reduce the spread of pathogens within a herd.

² Medicines as defined in Directive 2001/82/EC as amended by Directive 2004/28EC



In 2008 EPRUMA produced a ‘Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals’ in 200148, which is available in 12 European languages. These can be downloaded from www.epruma.eu.



In 2015 EPRUMA published a new brochure, entitled ‘Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals – Reaching for the next level’. The brochure explains the role and benefits of antibiotics in animal health and describing best-practice for their use in food-producing animals at the farm. It presents both a more holistic and more specific approach to implementing responsible use of antibiotics for further optimisation of animal health. It also gives guidance on indoor and free-range production, housing, biosecurity, nutrition, etc. and it includes a decision tree on the use of veterinary antibiotics in food-producing animals.

Membership

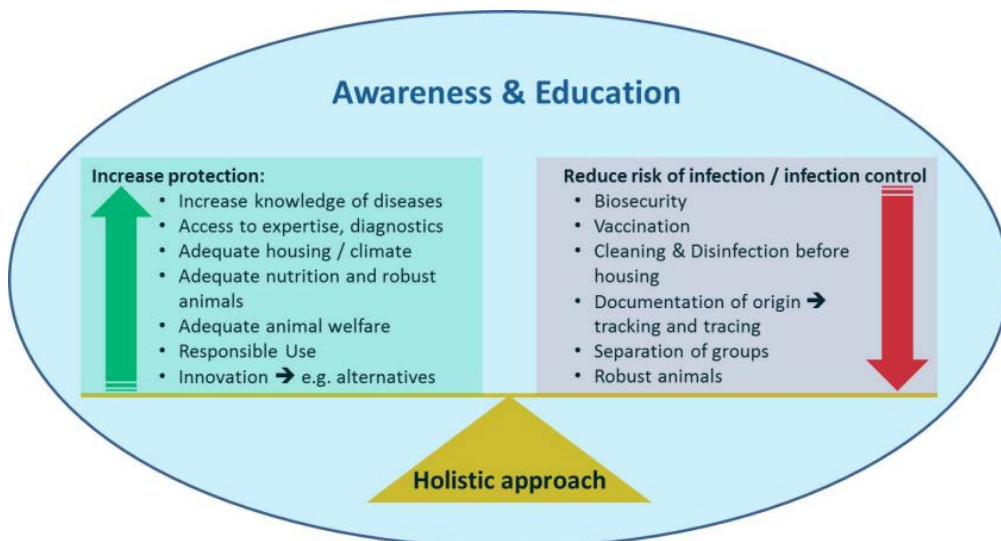
EPRUMA partners include veterinarians (FVE and FECAVA); farmers and agri-cooperatives (Copa-Cogeca); manufacturers of veterinary medicines (IFAH-Europe and EGGVP) and diagnostics (EMVD); feed manufacturers (FEFAC); farmers’ organisations working in animal health and sanitary security (FESASS), as well as sustainable agriculture (EISA); and pharmacists (PGEU).



Associate partners include national Responsible Use platforms from Belgium (AMCRA), the Netherlands (SDa), the United Kingdom (RUMA) and Spain (VETRESPONSABLE).



Graphic: Responsible Use - a holistic approach



Visit www.epruma.eu for further information on EPRUMA activities, news and publications.

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