

Merck Animal Health – Position Statement on Antibiotic Use

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

Antibiotics are life-saving veterinary products that treat 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 supports the responsible and targeted use of antibiotics by:

- Working with regulatory agencies to establish withdrawal periods as part of the approval process for antibiotics used in food-producing animals. Government programs regularly monitor the food supply for antibiotic residues to ensure its safety.
- Conducting and participating in surveillance programs that would detect the emergence of bacterial resistance to Merck Animal Health antibiotics.
- Conducting research to develop alternative approaches to the use of antibiotics in animals. Despite significant research and development efforts, there are still several diseases with no alternative treatments to antibiotics available.
- Engaging in research efforts to increase knowledge of the proper use of antibiotics in animals for the benefit of both human and animal health.
- Supporting the adherence to guidelines on the prudent use of antibiotics developed by organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Office of Epizootics, the World Veterinary Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the European Platform for Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals.
- Providing veterinarians, commercial production operations, farmers, ranchers and feed companies with guidelines on resistance management, appropriate dosage, and length of usage to support the sustainable use of antibiotics.