


ÉCOANTIBIO

RÉDUIRE L'UTILISATION DES
ANTIBIOTIQUES VÉTÉRINAIRES

REDUCING ANTIBIOTIC USE IN VETERINARY MEDICINE



The ecoantibio 2017 plan
advocates cautious, rational antibiotic use
and is hinged around

Quantitative objectives :

**Reduce antibiotic use in veterinary medicine
by 25% in 5 years :** only strictly necessary and appropriate
amounts should be prescribed and administered to animals.

Qualitative objectives :

Focus particularly on reducing the use of critically important
antibiotics in veterinary medicine and, in particular, fluoroquinolones
and third and fourth-generation cephalosporins.



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE
ET DE LA FORÊT

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The **écoantibio2017** plan

5 priorities
40 measures

Promote **best practices** and **raise awareness** among the stakeholders involved

Develop **alternatives** to antibiotic use

Reinforce the **regulation of commercial practices** and prescribing rules

Improve the **system for monitoring** antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance

Promote the **same approach** on a **European** and international scale

Who are the stakeholders involved in reducing antibiotic resistance in farm livestock ?

Bacteria can be spread and shared between humans and animals. This affects us because animal health and human health are inextricably linked.

This plan mobilises : ---> farmers in the various livestock sectors ;
---> vets and pharmacists ;
---> scientists and risk assessors (Anses - French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety) ;

**Action to be taken
Livestock farming sectors should :**

- Adopt preventive measures ;
- Undergo training in good antibiotic use and biosafety ;
- Improve livestock farming practices (hygiene, farm building maintenance, animal health monitoring).

---> the pharmaceutical industry ;
---> public authorities ;
---> the general public, i.e. all animal owners.

... Vets should :

- Improve prescribing practices, leading to lower antibiotic use ;
- Limit livestock prescriptions for critically important antibiotics, for which maintaining their efficacy in humans is a priority ;
- Advise farmers to help improve livestock farming conditions and prevent the development of diseases.



**The role played by the
Ministry of Agriculture,
the Food Processing
Industry and Forestry**

... Scientists should :

- Gain a better understanding of immunology in order to develop vaccines against bacterial diseases ;
- Conduct research in the field of alternative treatment methods and resistance mechanisms ;
- Develop methods for the assessment of antibiotic resistance risks.

The Ministry steers this plan :

> raising awareness among all the players concerned ;

> facilitating professional initiatives (e.g. development of research and improvement of livestock farming methods) ;

**... Pharmaceutical
companies should :**

- Develop new antibiotics ;
- Develop alternatives, such as vaccines, avoiding the need to use antibiotics.

> improving the regulations in the field of antibiotic marketing and prescription.

Controlling antibiotic resistance is a major public health issue worldwide, warranting the increased awareness and urgent commitment of each and every one of us.

What is an antibiotic ?

Antibiotics are natural or synthetic substances capable of destroying bacteria or stopping them from multiplying.

When they are contained in medicines, they can be used to treat diseases caused by bacteria in both humans and animals. However, they have no action against viruses.

Why are veterinary antibiotics used in livestock farming ?

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections. Only healthy animals can be used to produce foodstuffs that carry no health risks for consumers. In addition, these diseases adversely affect the economic performance of livestock.

Only vets may prescribe antibiotics.

What is antibiotic resistance ?

Antibiotic resistance is a natural defensive phenomenon on the part of bacteria to withstand the effects of an antibiotic.

Some bacteria previously sensitive to the antibiotic are no longer killed or controlled.

It is the bacteria that become resistant, not the person or the animal.

What are the risks related to the development of antibiotic resistance ?

The main risk is transmission, from humans to animals and from animals to humans, of bacteria resistance mechanisms due to direct contact, through food or the environment.

The development of resistance to antibiotics also reduces the treatment options in the event of infection.

Some antibiotic families are no longer effective against certain types of bacteria.

At present, the prospects for developing new antibiotics are very limited.

Maintaining the effectiveness of existing antibiotics has therefore become a priority since they are essential for human and animal health.

What action is being taken in veterinary medicine ?

As is the case in human medicine, it has proved to be necessary to implement a plan aimed at rallying the support of all the stakeholders involved in this issue over the next five years.



To find out more,
please visit the
écoantibio2017 section on
www.agriculture.gouv.fr