

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR VETS AND PET OWNERS



VETERINARY TEAMS

- ▶ **Inappropriate and unnecessary** antibiotic use is one of the factors that accelerates antimicrobial resistance and the emergence of resistant strains of bacteria in animals
- ▶ **Proper management** of antibiotic use can reduce the incidence of infection by resistant bacteria
- ▶ Antibiotics **should not** be given speculatively or 'just in case'
- ▶ Infection must be **correctly diagnosed** using clinical signs, cytology and, where appropriate, culture. Generally, use of narrow-spectrum antibiotics is less likely to lead to resistant bacteria than use of broad-spectrum antibiotics. Correct use for the right amount of time also helps to stop development of resistance
- ▶ It is important to **explain to pet owners** clearly why an antibiotic is or is not used in a particular case, and how a particular approach will reduce the risk of resistant strains emerging

This poster is presented as part of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day, an event designed to make information available to the public and health professionals on issues related to the responsible and effective use of antibiotics and the disorders they are used to treat. Find out more at <https://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

The One Health Initiative is a movement to forge co-equal, all-inclusive collaborations between physicians, veterinarians, dentists, nurses, and other scientific-health and environmentally related disciplines. The Bella Moss Foundation works hard to bridge the gap between human and animal health, and believes that responsible use of antibiotics will help benefit animals and people in equal measure. Find out more about the One Health Initiative at <https://onehealthinitiative.com>

PET OWNERS

- ▶ There are only **three times** when antibiotic use is necessary:
 1. When a **definite bacterial infection is present** (e.g. sometimes as treatment for a cat bite abscess where pus is visible)
 2. Where infection may not be present but is **highly likely to develop** (e.g. right after a cat fight, or a critically ill patient with a weakened immune system during chemotherapy)
 3. Where an infection could lead to **total catastrophe—THIS IS RARE** (e.g. a patient undergoing total hip replacement where an infection could cause surgical disaster)
- ▶ Antibiotics are only effective in treating **bacterial infections**
- ▶ Always talk to your vet about the need for **responsible antibiotics use**

