



Trust your vet on antibiotics

- +** **Trust your vet if they say antibiotics are not required:** antibiotics only treat infections caused by bacteria, not viruses.
- +** **Trust your vet if further tests are needed:** different antibiotics work against different bacteria, so it's important your pet gets the right medicine.
- +** **Trust your vet's instructions when giving your pet antibiotics:** the correct dose, at the right time, for the full duration prescribed.
- +** **Trust your vet's advice on keeping your pet healthy:** a balanced diet, enough exercise, up to date vaccinations and regular check-ups.

Any use of an antibiotic can contribute towards antibiotic resistance. To keep antibiotics working for animals and people they should only be used when absolutely necessary.

 www.bva.co.uk/trustyourvet



#TrustYourVet



Veterinary
Medicines
Directorate

Veterinary Medicines Information Sheet



The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the government agency responsible for authorising and regulating veterinary medicines. We are also responsible for the policy and its delivery on veterinary medicines in the UK.

www.gov.uk/vmd and use the search terms listed

There are quick links on the top of our [home page](#) to our most used guidance and services. Sign up to our [email alerts](#) for the latest news and updates.

Product Information Database:

Search “[check animal medicines](#)”

Our [searchable database](#) of definitive, up-to-date product details, including the Summary of Product Characteristics (user guidance for the product and specific warnings to consider), the UK Public Assessment Report (UKPAR) and a list of Post Authorisation Assessments (PAA) made to the authorisation which shows where changes have been made.

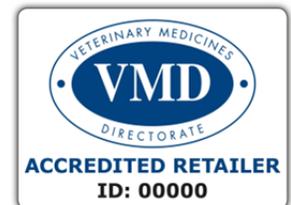
Accredited Internet Retailer Scheme (AIRS):

Search “[selling medicines guidance](#)” or “[check retailer accredited](#)”

As a vet, pharmacist or suitably qualified person [selling veterinary medicines](#) on the internet you must comply with the [Veterinary Medicines Regulations](#).

This interactive logo will be displayed on Accredited sites and will link to the [VMD's published list](#):

It is an offence to alter a written veterinary prescription without the permission of the person who wrote it.



If you are aware of a website you believe is acting illegally please let us know by emailing: enforcement@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Reporting an Adverse Event:

Search “report animal medicine”

Anyone can report a reaction to a veterinary medicine that affects a person, animal or the environment, or if the medicine has not had the desired effect. This also includes unlicensed products, needle-stick injuries and microchips.

The information that you provide could help to improve the safe and effective use of veterinary medicines.

The Prescribing Cascade:

Search “cascade guidance”

This guidance explains how to use the prescribing cascade, including: dispensing, setting withdrawal periods, using human drugs, extemporaneous preparations, exemptions for small animals, labelling and record keeping. Also provides practical considerations, and special considerations for vaccines.

Special Import Scheme:

Search “import certificate”

Vets can apply for a certificate to import veterinary medicines if suitable alternatives are not available in the UK. Further guidance can be found using the search term above or contact the VMD if you have a specific query importcert@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Specific advice for vets and beekeepers on importing bee medicines can be found by searching for “bee medicines”.

Registration, Inspection and Selling Veterinary Medicines: Search “medicine retail guidance”

Veterinary surgeons are only allowed to supply medicines from their surgery premises if they are registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Some of these premises are inspected by the VMD and the inspection criteria is available online by searching “inspection criteria” or by email request to inspections@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

This guidance has information for vets, pharmacists and suitably qualified persons on prescribing or supplying medicines, including the requirements for the registration and inspection of premises.

Recording Medicines, including the Cascade:

Search “medicine record-keeping guidance”

Keepers of food producing animals, including horses, are required to keep records of the medicines they have purchased and that are administered to their animals. Template record sheets can also be downloaded for use.

Residues of Veterinary Medicines in Food:

Search “residues surveillance”

The VMD operates a Residues Surveillance Programme. Further information on the surveillance, substances tested, results and charges are available online, as well as more details about the veterinary residues legislation.

Antimicrobial Resistance:

Search “antimicrobial resistance”

There is a collection of information, including references to strategic policy documents, clinical and technical guidance, printable posters and news items.

The VMD has produced a summary position on the ‘responsible use under the prescribing cascade’ and a ‘code of practice of the responsible use of animal medicines on farm’.

Become an **ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN**



Join over 40,000 people and pledge to use antibiotics responsibly by becoming an antibiotic guardian. Visit www.antibioticguardian.com and choose your pledge today.

Controlled Drugs:

Search “controlled drugs”

Anyone involved in the prescribing, supply and storage of controlled drugs must comply with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations.

General enquiries postmaster@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk