

Antibiotic Resistance : the veterinary profession takes the lead

The French Federation of Veterinarian Syndicates (FSVF)¹, through its constituent syndicates which represent all practitioners, veterinary inspectors and teachers of veterinary schools, **supports the goal of reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance in veterinary medicine and urges all veterinarians to participate actively.**

For this reason they **agree** immediately to reduce the amount of prescribed antibiotics, because the implementation of the measures recommended by the National Plan² is subject to legal or operational constraints which might defer or alter the application.

Thus, to **significantly reduce the volumes of veterinary antibiotics being used**, we consider it appropriate to **intervene primarily on the prescription of oral antibiotics**, including medicated feed, especially when prescribed for preventive use.

Such progress can only be effective with the active involvement of all stakeholders in the animal production chain, which will lead to strengthened efforts to better control herd health status, while ensuring greater competitiveness.

Therefore, the FSVF and the three syndicates representing the practitioners (SNVEL, SNVECO and SNVSE) decide :

- To concentrate their efforts first on prescriptions of critical antibiotics, and on prescribing practices representing the largest amounts of antibiotics
- To set up, with all concerned partners, a timetable for reducing the prescription of medicated feed containing antibiotics, having in mind to gradually withdraw these practices from all food production where this achievement is scientifically, technically and economically possible
- To advocate the voluntary withdrawal of oral forms of antibiotics from herd health plans, contrary to the recent amendment to the Ministerial Decree of 28 June 2011, which still allows the use of five antibiotics in medicated feed
- To require from the competent bodies the necessary authorisations to use technical alternatives, presently banned in France but successfully used in the European Union. They will certainly contribute to reduce prescriptions of antibiotics in some sectors of activity,

This agreement initiates the work which will soon be carried out by the veterinary profession concerning the responsible use of antibiotics. Further information will be provided in the coming months.

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¹ The FSVF is composed of several syndicates representing :

- The practitioners : SNVEL (National Syndicate of Veterinarians of private practice), SNVECO (National Syndicate of Veterinary Council) and SNVSE (National Syndicate of Employees Corporate Veterinarians)

- Veterinary inspectors: SNISPV (National Syndicate of Veterinary Public Health Inspectors)

- Veterinary school teachers: FSEEVF (Federation of Syndicates of Teachers of Veterinary Schools)

² National plan to reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance in veterinary medicine